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ROCK ON FRIDAY

Still got them old cosmic blues, mama

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VALERIE GROVE

At the cutting edge of film censorship

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TRAVEL

The pleasures of Ireland

Special supplement

SERIALS DIVISION
THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

INFOTECH ON FRIDAY
Pages 31-33

THE TIMES

No. 64,596 FRIDAY MARCH 19 1993 2x 45p

Jobs, pound and housing give Major triple boost

A small fall in the jobless total, stronger sterling and a rise in new mortgages suggest "green shoots" might be showing

BY PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

JOHN Major struck an upbeat note on the economy yesterday after an unexpected 22,000 fall in unemployment, the first decrease for almost three years.

The surprise fall in unemployment came as the pound strengthened, Germany cut its interest rates and activity in the housing market picked up with a sharp increase in mortgages being taken out.

Mr Major drew on all these indications to taunt John Smith, the Labour leader. In their twice-weekly clash in the Commons, Mr Smith was unable, for the first time in months, to use the unemployment figures to attack the government. To the approval of the Conservative benches, Mr Major jibed: "The country will have noticed that on this occasion you made no mention and gave no welcome to the fall in unemployment." He said that, in the Budget, the Chancellor had "put in place the right structure to make sure that we get back the growth and the jobs and the prosperity that we seek".

Gordon Brown, the shadow Chancellor, said that if the fall in unemployment was to continue, it would be a welcome sign. "The problem is the Chancellor himself admitted that unemployment is going to continue to rise in the months to come."

Though ministers were careful not to use the fall in unemployment as a sign that economic recovery was under way, Whitehall officials were keen that any economic significance should not be underplayed. They said that, taken with January's smaller-than-expected rise in unemployment, yesterday's figures were moves in the right direction.

The pound had one of its best days this year, reaching its highest against the dollar and mark since late January. At the Bank of England close, it stood at DM2.4401, up more than three pfennigs. Against the dollar, it advanced about 2.5 cents to $1.4735. The pound was also pushed up by the decision of the Bundesbank to cut one of Germany's key interest rates by half a point to 7.5 per cent.

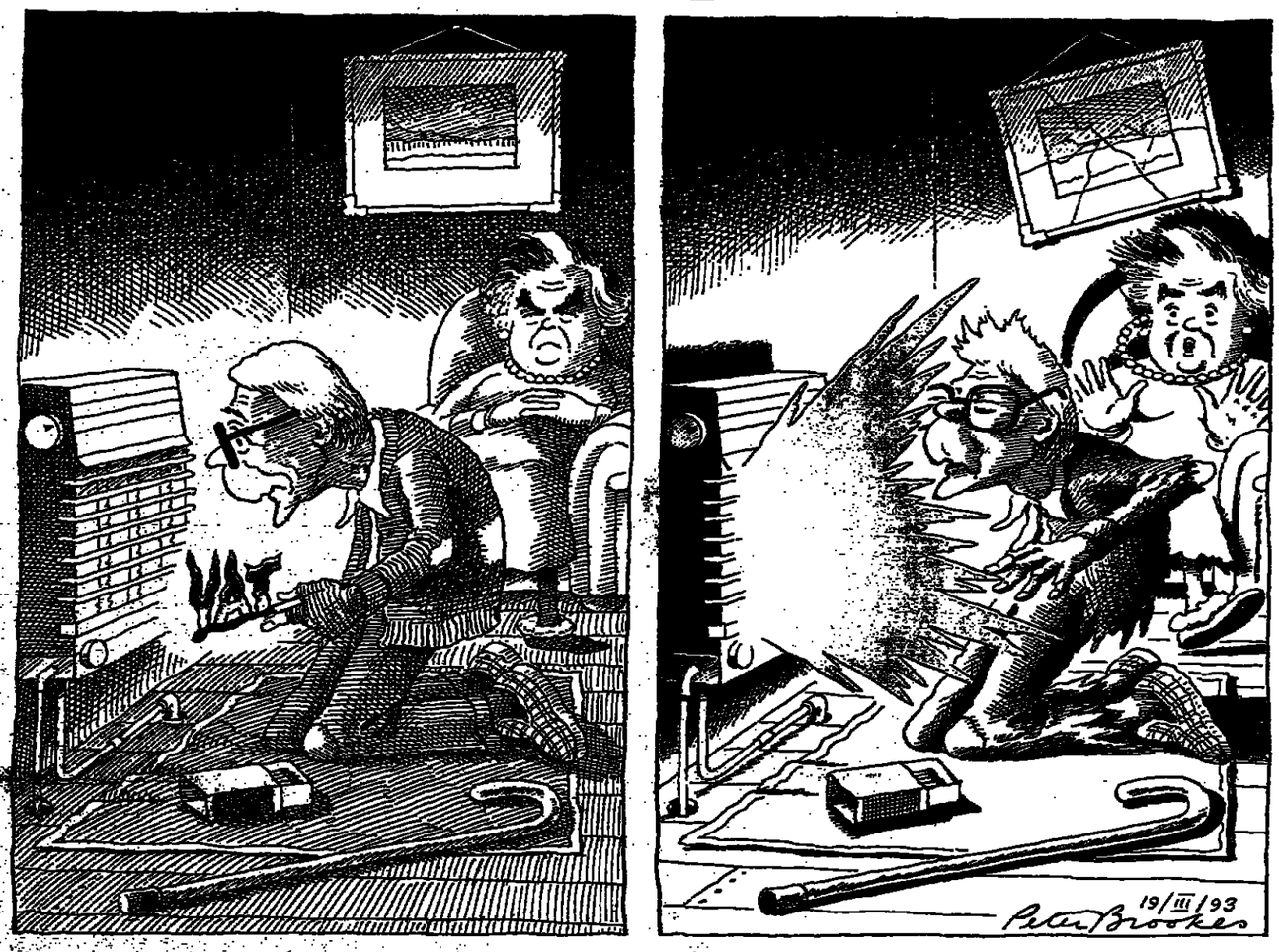
Activity in the mortgage market picked up sharply in February. Promised mortgages rose from £1.5 billion to £2.7 billion, the Building Societies Association said.

Seasonally adjusted unemployment fell by 22,000 to 2,971,100. Unadjusted unemployment — the actual number of people out of work — was 3,042,614 after a fall of 19,451.

However, the government expects unemployment to rise again. Its statisticians believe the trend could be a monthly increase of about 20,000.

Ministers said that too much should not be interpreted from one month's figures. Gillian Shephard, the employment secretary, welcomed the fall but said that unemployment could be "volatile" for some time. In the early 1980s, unemployment dropped a number of times and rose again before a clear downward trend was established.

Office exodus, page 7
Pay squeeze, page 10
Budget debate, page 11
Leading article and letters, page 19
Bundesbank cut, page 23
Beware of blitz, page 27
German gloom, page 28



Extra benefit promised to ease heating bills for 10 million poor

BY PHILIP WEBSTER
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE prime minister yesterday defused a potential Tory backbench revolt by dispelling some of the muddle and confusion surrounding the Budget announcement that VAT is to be imposed on electricity and gas bills.

John Major and a succession of his colleagues spelt out that extra help will be given to up to 10 million poorer people to ease the additional fuel costs. They were forced to act after what one senior minister called a "presentational disaster" in which ministers appeared to contradict each other over whether people on benefits and pensioners would get compensation on top of the normal increase in line with inflation.

The message to Tory MPs was that the help would be forthcoming from next April, before the first of the higher fuel bills arrived. However, ministers declined to say how much help would be given, other than reinforcing the firm impression that the poor will not be fully compensated for the extra cost.

Labour pledged last night to continue pressing for full compensation, which would take £1 billion of the £3 billion that will be raised by the ending of zero-rating on fuel.

Although Tory MPs were continuing to press last night for assistance for pensioners above benefit level, Mr Major seemed to have headed off the danger of a rebellion when the Commons votes on the Budget on Monday.

Tory MPs voiced astonishment that the government had not spelt out clearly from the outset its intentions to give additional help. The cabinet yesterday discussed what officials called the "misinterpretation" of Mr Lamont's announcement. Mr Major and other ministers were reported to be furious at the way confusion had grown, but MPs wondered why Mr Lamont had not elaborated in his Budget speech.

Briefing notes distributed to Tory MPs after the Budget state: "The price effect of this change will automatically feed through to the uprating of social security benefits. However, the Chancellor recognises that those on low incomes will be particularly affected and the Secretary of State for Social Security will take this into account when the income related benefits are increased next April before the higher bills arrive." At question time, John Smith accused Mr Major of betraying election promises not to increase taxes. A typical family would have to pay £8.50 a week in extra taxes from next April and £12.50 a week in extra tax in the following year, he said. Mr Major said that the government had an overriding commitment to restore government finances to balance.

Mr Smith said it was shameful that Mr Major was unable to commit the government to meeting in full the increased fuel costs on vulnerable members of society. "Have you no conscience at all about short-changing the poor as well as betraying your election commitments?"

Politics, pages 10, 11
Leading article, page 19

Birt stays as board closes ranks behind Hussey

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

MARMADUKE Hussey, the BBC's chairman, held his ground yesterday, resisting vigorous and repeated calls for him to resign in the wake of the John Birt tax affair.

Following a tense, but "businesslike", meeting of the BBC board at Bush House in London, the other 11 governors closed ranks behind Mr Hussey, despite previous expressions of disquiet over the affair, and issued a statement reiterating their "full support" for John Birt, the director-general.

Indicating clearly that they hoped this would be the end of the affair, the statement ended with the words: "The question whether resignations would be in the interest of the BBC was discussed by the governors. It was agreed that they would not."

The two-page statement admitted that the decision to employ Mr Birt on a freelance contract was a mistake. The statement is unlikely to diffuse the crisis entirely, however, particularly as it admitted that Mr Birt was not the first management board member to be appointed on a freelance contract.

David Winnick, one of 68 Labour MPs who last week signed a Commons motion criticising the "complete public disregard" Mr Hussey and Mr Birt had shown in their management of the BBC, said he deeply regretted the statement. Tony Lennon, president of Becta, the broadcasting union, described it as a whitewash.

Yesterday the results of a telephone poll run by *Broadcast* magazine involving 1,333 television executives showed that 94 per cent wanted Mr Birt to resign: 98 per cent said Mr Hussey should go.

Pride in BBC, page 7
Diary, page 18

TOMORROW
IN THE TIMES

Hollywood



Winning an Oscar requires more than talent: it helps to be cinematically correct. In the new **Times Magazine**, William Cash reports from Beverly Hills on all the pre-ceremony dining and crawling. Plus Vikram Seth on why his new novel is longer than War and Peace: Quentin Crisp recalls his childhood; and readers can even learn to comment on The Times by computer.

Cricklewood



"With the creaking open of each newly arrived boot, something in the watching heart echoes that mournful groan." In **Weekend**, Alan Coren picks his way through a car-boot sale. Lynne Truss ponders television and fiction. And Paul Heiney renounces violence on the farm.

New York

Alexander Chancellor on why America's oldest newspaper this week produced an entire edition attacking its owner, prospective owner and editor-in chief (headline: Get Lost!). Plus the trenchant and illuminating views of Simon Jenkins.

The new Times for all times

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Portfolio Plus
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Page 29

Griffiths' former wife wins £21,000 from solicitors

BY JAMIE DETTMER

SIGRID Griffiths yesterday won a High Court action against the solicitors who acted for her during her divorce from Sir Eldon Griffiths, the retired Tory MP.

A judge awarded her more than £21,000 in damages after finding the solicitors, Dawson & Co of Lincoln's Inn, London, negligent. Mr Justice Ewbank ruled that the firm had failed to protect Mrs Griffiths' rights in respect of Sir Eldon's parliamentary pension scheme and said its conduct had fallen below the usual standards.

Mrs Griffiths, who receives a nominal 5p a year from Sir Eldon in maintenance, welcomed the decision. She said she had taken the action as she had been unjustly treated. She added: "Most women in my situation do not know the law so they go to a solicitor and expect that which is possible will be done for them."

Sir Eldon, speaking from his home in California, condemned the press coverage of the case and said he had been maligned by newspapers. "I was not a party to the case. I have been described as mean and potentially violent." He said his wife was not in need of more than 5p maintenance a year. "She is a wealthy woman," he said.


Sir Eldon: condemned press coverage

Mr Justice Ewbank awarded Mrs Griffiths £21,802 in damages against Dawson and Co and also directed that costs, estimated at £25,000, should be paid by the firm.

Mr Justice Ewbank said it was an injustice that most pension funds made no provision for a divorced wife to have a widow's pension. He added that in a divorce a competent solicitor should protect a wife's position by applying to hold up a decree absolute while financial matters, including pension rights, were looked into. He should also study the rules of the relevant pension fund.

In Mrs Griffiths' case, David Robson, who handled the divorce for her before he retired from Dawson and Co, did neither, the judge said. He had assumed that Sir Eldon's belief that he could nominate part of his pension to go to her was valid. A "cursory" glance at the rules would have revealed this was "moonshine", the judge said.

Ex-wife wins, page 3

Press ombudsman favoured by MPs

BY SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE government will be urged by MPs next week to set up a press ombudsman, preferably a retired judge, with powers to demand corrections and fine offending papers.

The Commons national heritage committee is expected to criticise the performance of the Press Complaints Commission while dismissing the case for a statutory regime to police the newspaper industry. Instead the cross-party committee's report, *Privacy and Media Intrusion*, to be published on Wednesday, will opt for a non-statutory ombudsman, possibly backed up by a panel.

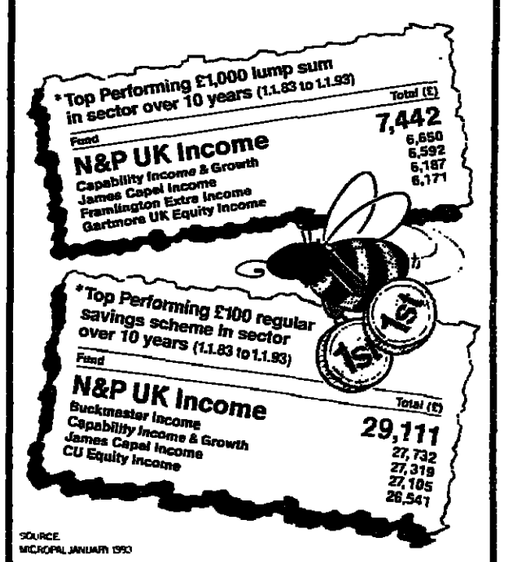
The MPs believe their report will hand Peter Brooke, the national heritage secretary, a sensible system that falls between the self-regulatory regime and the statutory controls recommended by Sir David Calcutt. Mr Brooke is under pressure from Tory MPs to introduce tougher controls after the press coverage of the private lives of members of the royal family and politicians.

The committee, chaired by Gerald Kaufman, will emphasise that it is worried about harassment of private citizens who become caught up in sensational newspaper reports rather than public figures. Its report will call for a complaints hotline to the ombudsman for use by private citizens. The ombudsman would be an arbitrator, sometimes channelling complaints to the editors concerned, but with the ultimate power to take further action.

Under the committee's scheme the ombudsman could help to determine the prominence given to corrections or impose fines on newspapers. MPs expect that most complaints, such as the "staking out" of people's homes, could be dealt with by agreement with editors.

Letters, page 19

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T/19.3.93/PEP

FOC elderly YOI ace wait BI for beds in homes

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

WAITING lists for old people's homes could emerge for the first time because urban local authorities have not been given enough money under the community care changes which take effect on April 1.

Government figures show that one in five local authorities will have less to spend in 1993-4 than they budgeted to spend this year, even after allowing for the additional community care grant. The shortfall could curtail services, according to the health select committee.

Under the community care changes the automatic right to state support for old people going into residential care is to be removed and local authority social services departments are to assume responsibility for assessing their needs and paying for help in their own homes or a place in a residential home. To meet the costs, £399 million is being transferred from the social security department to local authorities together with £140 million for start-up costs.

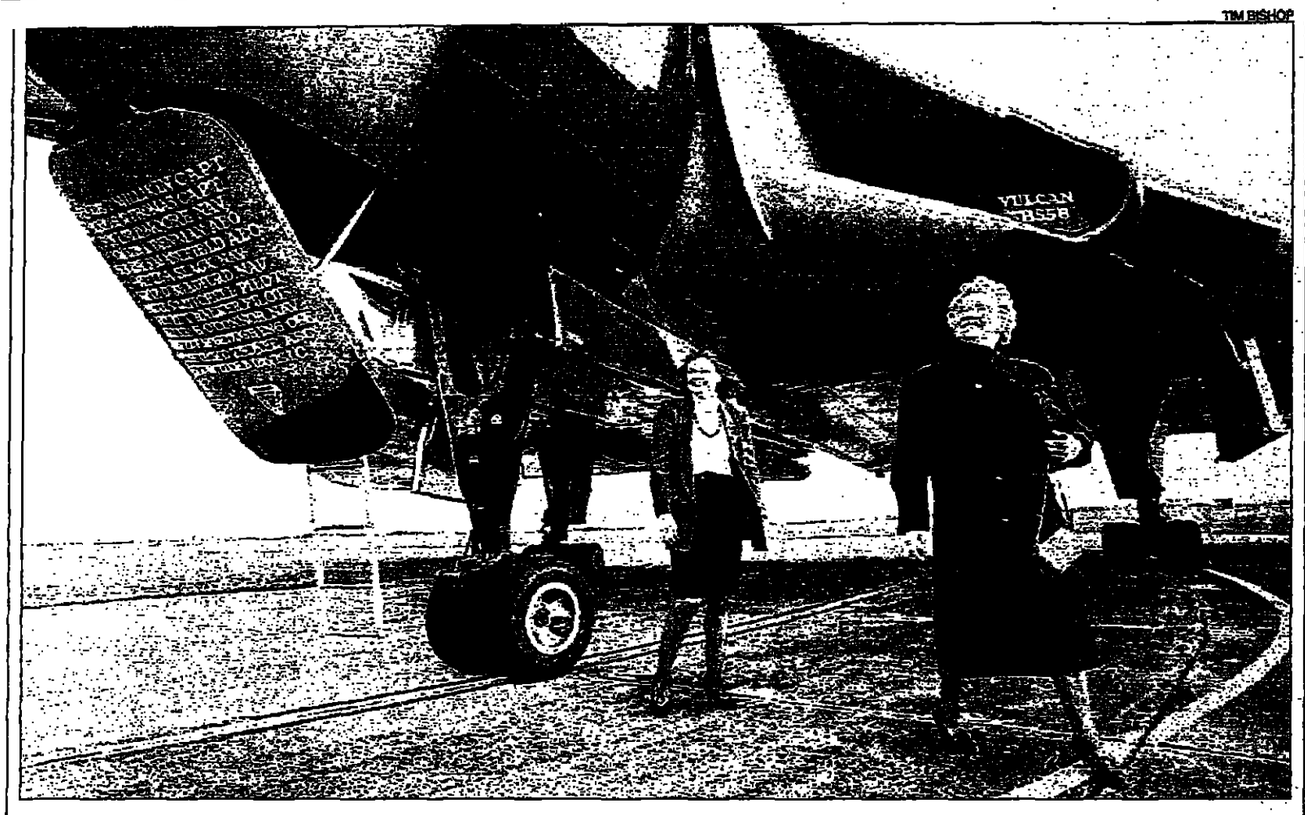
Local authority associations told the health committee the figure was £135 million short of what they needed. The health committee said it was unable to judge the adequacy of the resources because the health department had failed to provide enough information. In its unanimous report on the funding of community care, published yesterday, the all-party committee said that additional money should be provided in case local authorities got into difficulties.

"There is a danger that we will have the same situation as in the NHS with local authorities approaching the end of the financial year finding their money running out," said Tessa Jowell, a member of the committee. "That could mean that some people are left at home with inadequate care and exposed to some risk."

Shire counties have recieved a larger share of the community care grant because they have more old people's homes but metropolitan areas where there are few homes have been harder hit.

Leading article, page 19

TIM BISHOP



Maidens' flight: Liz and Elizabeth Walton survey the RAF's last Vulcan bomber, which has been bought by their family company (Michael Evans writes). It has only 18 hours of flying time left before its "MoT certificate" runs out, and the Ministry of Defence decided it could not afford the £2.5 million overhaul needed to keep it flying. C Walton Ltd, which paid more than £25,000 for the delta-winged bomber, will put it on show at its aviation museum at Bruntingthorpe aerodrome near Lutterworth, Leicestershire. There were 11 bids to buy Vulcan XH558, which made its maiden flight in 1960. David Walton, for the new owner, said: "The likelihood of the aircraft taking to the sky again is fairly remote, but it will be preserved in its current condition." It will regularly taxi around the aerodrome to help to keep its engine and flight systems in good condition. There will be one more flight, from RAF Waddington in Lincolnshire to its new home next Tuesday. There are today only about 25 of the 134 Vulcans left around the world, two of them in the United States. Many have been sold for scrap.

EC rejects fishermen's call for ban on cheap imports

FROM TOM WALKER IN BRUSSELS AND MICHAEL HORNSBY

DEMANDS by militant English and French trawlermen for new controls on cheap fish imports and a ban on Russian cod were rejected by European Community fisheries ministers at a meeting in Brussels yesterday.

David Curry, the fisheries minister, said after the talks that he was satisfied with assurances from his French counterpart, Charles Josselin, of extra police protection for British cargoes, but admitted that further attacks could not be ruled out.

Earlier, Jean-Marc Barrey, secretary general of the French fishermen's Union Maritime, had threatened further violent protests against fish imports if the ministers did not accede to their demands. "If we don't get a decision on prices and imports then the fight will go on," he declared.

Mr Curry said: "I understand the French have got a major problem. But they have got to demonstrate that they as a government can keep order in their own backyard."

He said he and M Josselin had, though, agreed to do their utmost to guarantee the safe transit of fish on both sides of the Channel.

Among the ministers, M Josselin was effectively alone in demanding a 30 per cent increase in minimum import prices for fish and a ban on all Russian imports. English and French trawlermen blame supplies of cheap Russian cod for driving down quayside prices, but have little evidence to support their case. The ministers agreed merely to enforce more rigorously existing minimum prices and fish hygiene rules.

Richard Banks, chief executive of the National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations, which represents English trawlermen, said: "We are deeply disappointed. The decisions taken today were pure window-dressing and will do nothing to improve prices."

While French and English trawlermen found themselves in rare agreement, there were divisions in British ranks. Scottish trawlermen are against a ban on Russian cod because they fear it would provoke retaliation against the large amounts of herring and mackerel they sell to Russia.

A ban would also provoke an outcry from fish processors. More than half the fish eaten in Britain is frozen cod, almost all of it imported because British trawlermen cannot meet more than a tiny fraction of the demand. Mr Curry said a ban would merely encourage consumers to "switch away from buying fish".

Almost 500 riot police surrounded the Council of Ministers' headquarters in expectation of violent protests that never materialised.

Heseltine dampens hope on pits

HOPES of a big pit rescue package faded further last night after a private meeting at Westminster between Michael Heseltine and the most senior Conservative backbenchers.

The President of the Board of Trade left the 18-strong executive of the 1922 committee in no doubt that he was facing serious difficulties in trying to save as many as half of the 31 pits threatened with closure.

He pointed to the mounting stockpiles of unwanted coal at pitheads to underline the problems he faced in trying to find a viable future for the industry.

For the most part, MPs listened in glum silence to Mr Heseltine as he hinted that he would be able to save only a handful of pits.

MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

Weasel tendency prospers in hamsters' clothes

"What weasels our politicians are," a colleague said as we left the press gallery after PM's questions yesterday. It had been another wearisome session. John Smith tried to "nail" John Major with his "betrayal" of manifesto promises on VAT. Major tried to "clobber" Smith for his habit of "talking this country down".

Spare us. Even lifting the pencil seemed pointless. Returning to my desk, I repeated the question: *are* they weasels?

The weasel is quick, sleek and beautiful, perfectly adapted to its role. MPs try to be sly but they are not very good at it and no joy to watch. Besides, a ghastly blandness infects our politics. Weasels in hamsters' clothing abound. For want of a better word, though, "weasels" will do. But who made them weasels?

We did. The nation and its news media have created for politicians a habitat where only the weasel can survive. If weasels prosper at the expense of nobler beasts then should we sneer?

Take the two pseudo-issues which surfaced yesterday in the House. The VAT election pledge now seriously embarrasses the Tories. Major said there would be no increase. "Surely," we think, "he realised it was foolish to give so firm an undertaking?"

Of course he did. But imagine if, placed on the spot, he had given the honest answer: "We believe no VAT increase should be needed, but who can be sure?" Labour would have fallen on this with glee. Would political editors or columnists have brushed the reply aside, explaining that no party leader can ever say never? No. We would have splashed it: "*MAJOR FAILS TO RULE OUT . . .*" etc.

Or take Labour's "talking Britain down" — a theme on which the Tories have been harping for months. Imagine Mr Smith made a speech supporting (as he does) some of the economic reforms the Tories have achieved. Or that he was to celebrate good economic news and say he hoped Britain was turning the corner. It would be dug up by Tory central office and *rammed down his throat* ever after. The press would speculate that he lacked the "instinct for the jugular" an Opposition leader needs.

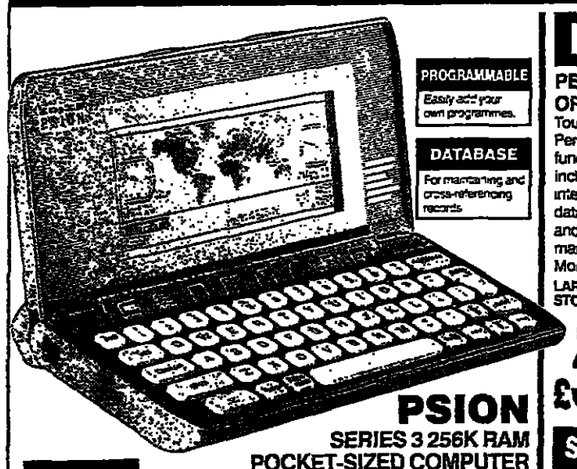
Or suppose a Tory minister were to enter the fray about energy prices by remarking what everyone knows: welfare beneficiaries will be compensated for VAT increases, but not to the full extent; that this is regretted, but that many pensioners are *quite able to pay their share* . . . just picture the fuss! The media, and much of its audience, would call this minister a hooligan.

We punish as "indiscreet" any politician who ruffles the smooth surface of our bland political culture. We *may disagree* with his opinion, but it is the suggestion that the incompetence lies in *expressing* it, which so damages a frank politician. It becomes hard for serious MPs to touch any sensitive debate.

Smooth-talkers prosper, but the cleverest of all — rough-talkers who tell us only what we want to hear — *prosper most with the English*. Mrs Thatcher did that for her audience, as Dennis Skinner does for his.

Run through the names of famous politicians relegated for being insufficiently "political" — Alec Douglas Home, Keith Joseph, John Biffen, Peter Shore, Paul Tsongas — or less famous names — Richard Needham, Jeff Rooker, John Cartwright, George Robertson . . . and reflect. Doesn't the press, don't the electorate, persecute the non-weaseloid tendency? Have we any right, then, to scratch each others' backs and giggle at the survivors, the weasels?

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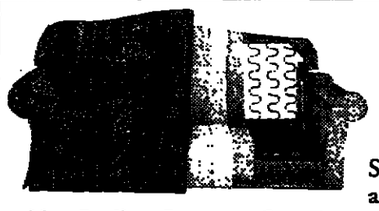
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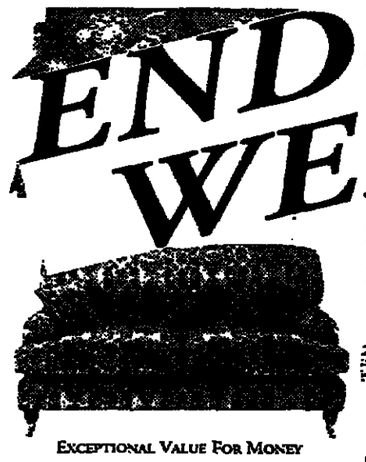
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NEW SHOWROOM OPENS IN CHELTENHAM THIS SATURDAY

High Court awards £21,000 damages for negligent handling of divorce from Sir Eldon

Sigrid Griffiths wins case against solicitors

BY JAMIE DETTMER AND NIGEL PINTO

SIGRID Griffiths, the former wife of the retired Tory MP Sir Eldon Griffiths, was awarded £21,802 damages yesterday against the solicitors who represented her in divorce proceedings.

Mr Justice Ewbank described Dawson and Co, of Lincoln's Inn, London, as negligent and said the way they handled the divorce in 1985 had "fallen below the usual standards of competence" expected of lawyers. During his hour-long ruling in the High Court in London, he said the firm had failed to follow Mrs Griffiths's instructions to hold up a decree absolute until an agreement had been reached with Sir Eldon on a full financial settlement.

Mrs Griffiths, who lost parliamentary pension rights as a result of Dawson and Co's negligence, is paid only a nominal five pence a year in maintenance by Sir Eldon, who now lives in California with his second wife, Betty Stannard. She sued Dawson and Co for £74,000 in damages for the firm's failure to win a settlement before the divorce, her loss of pension entitlements and legal costs.

Speaking at the end of the four-day trial, Mrs Griffiths, 63, said that it had been painful to relive the last days of her 30-year marriage to Sir Eldon during the High Court case. On the first day of the hearing, the German-born Mrs Griffiths told the court that Sir Eldon had threatened violence after he left her in 1979 and that he had vowed to cut her off without a penny unless she agreed to a cash deal on their divorce. She alleged in court that during the five-year-long negotiations over the divorce, Sir Eldon stopped paying the £6,000-a-year rent on her Westminster flat.

Yesterday, Mrs Griffiths said: "I felt I had to bring this case. Most women in my situation do not know the law so they go to a solicitor and expect that which is possible will be done for them. If it is not, it should be taken up."

Mr Justice Ewbank accepted the argument of James Davis, Mrs Griffiths's barrister, that David Robson, the solicitor handling the divorce, had failed to consider her pension rights after Sir Eldon retired from the House of Commons. Mr Davis maintained that Dawson and Co's negligence had cost Mrs Griffiths the pension she would have received as an MP's widow in the event of 67-year-old Sir Eldon's death. He also claimed that if the firm had read the rules of the House of Commons pension scheme, they would have found that Sir Eldon could have applied for a lump sum advance, which could have given Mrs Griffiths an annuity.

'This firm was negligent. The way the divorce was handled in 1985 falls below the usual standard of competence expected of lawyers'

After their divorce in June 1985, Mrs Griffiths received maintenance of £10,000 a year, which was halved by consent to £5,000 in 1990. Since Sir Eldon's retirement from Parliament last year after being MP for Bury St Edmunds for 28 years, she has been entitled to receive a nominal 5p a year. Mrs Griffiths, who has been working as a tour guide and an interpreter since her divorce, said yesterday that she was now reconciled to the virtual lack of maintenance.

In making the award yesterday, Mr Justice Ewbank said it was an injustice that most pension funds made no provision for a divorced wife to have a widow's pension. He added that in a divorce a competent solicitor should protect a wife's position by applying to hold up a decree absolute while financial matters were looked into.

He said that in Mrs Griffiths's case, Mr Robson, who handled the divorce before he retired from Dawson and Co, did neither. He assumed that Sir Eldon's belief that he could nominate part of his pension to her was valid. A cursory glance at the rules would have revealed that was "moonshine", said the judge.

Mr Justice Ewbank condemned Mr Robson for taking the view that an application to hold up the decree absolute, as Mrs Griffiths wanted, was an "extortion" and would be "unsporting". He also criticised Frere-Smith and Co — the firm engaged after Mrs Griffiths dismissed Dawson and Co — for failing to discover that Sir Eldon's pension could have been commuted to a lump sum.

Dawson and Co said that they were considering an appeal.

Court victory, page 1





PHIL COBURN

Together and apart: Eldon Griffiths and his wife Sigrid campaigning in Bury St Edmunds in 1964, and Mrs Griffiths leaving the High Court yesterday

'My ex-wife needs no more than 5p a year'

BY JAMIE DETTMER

SIR Eldon Griffiths, the former Tory MP for Bury St Edmunds, insisted yesterday that his first wife, who he divorced against her will after 30 years of marriage, was a wealthy woman and did not need more than the 5p-a-year maintenance he pays her.

Speaking from his home in Orange County, California, a salubrious suburb of Los Angeles, he denounced British newspapers for their coverage of the High Court case involving his first wife, Sigrid, which ended yesterday. He said that the reports he had read were full of inaccuracies.

Sir Eldon said: "I was not a party to the case. It was between my first wife and her solicitors but I have been pulled in. It has been like a hand grabbing me from the past." He took issue with how some newspapers had labelled him "mean and potentially violent". "These reports are mendacious and wrong. It was the court in 1990 that decided maintenance should be a nominal 5p a year. My first wife is younger, healthier and better-resourced than me. She is a woman of considerable means."

Sir Eldon retired at the last general election after 28 years as MP for the safe Tory seat of Bury St Edmunds. He was best known for his work on behalf of the Police Federation, for whom he acted as parliamentary adviser for 22 years. In the Commons he was nicknamed the "voice of the force".

A tall, rangy man, he was described by one parliamentary sketch-writer as having an "air of misplaced solemnity" in the Commons. At one time he was tipped as a future party leader, but while he became Opposition spokesman on Europe and trade and industry in 1974, he was not given any government post by Margaret Thatcher.

Sir Eldon is now president of the World Affairs Council in California, described as a "non-political forum". He gives lectures and is writing his memoirs.

Trapped whales weaker

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH
SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

SIX sperm whales trapped in Scapa Flow off the Orkney Islands are showing increasing signs of distress.

Plans to lure the male whales out to sea by playing tapes of female sperm whales have been boosted by the discovery of former navy hydrophonic amplification equipment, which Loughborough University has offered free. Scottish Natural Heritage in Orkney is hoping to find a sponsor to transport the heavy equipment to Orkney.

Andrew Dorin, of the group, said: "Evidence from round the world tells us that these whales are in serious danger of beaching themselves." The group wants to attempt a rescue using the tapes this weekend. If unsuccessful, a gentle herding of the whales with boats may be attempted next week.

Mr Dorin said: "The whales are not diving as much as they have been. It may be that there is little food for them in Scapa Flow and they are not wasting energy looking for it, but it could be that they are weakening. We have been told by experts that they are living on borrowed time."

David Goodison, of Loughborough University, said: "We are offering an underwater loudspeaker. It can be hung over the side of a boat and the tape played." He said the whales might recognise the sound as artificial and not be convinced by it.

Manchester unveils Olympic stadium

BY JOHN GOODBODY, SPORTS NEWS CORRESPONDENT

A £150 million stadium will be built in Manchester if it is awarded the 2000 Olympic Games in September.

Plans were unveiled yesterday for the 80,000-seat venue, which would host the opening and closing ceremonies and athletics events. The cost has been underwritten by the government and a consortium led by the construction company Amec has won the international competition to develop the 121-acre site.

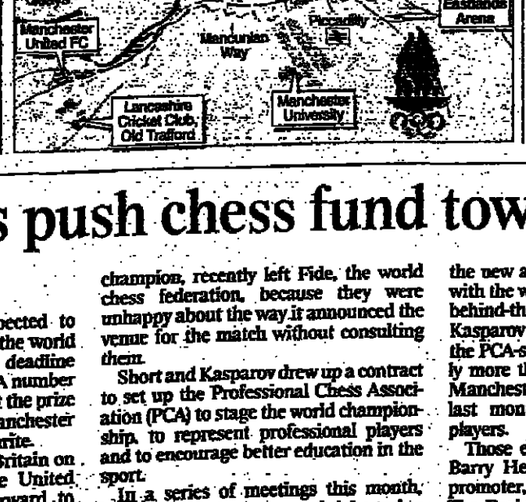
Bob Scott, chairman of the organising committee for the Olympic bid, said: "We are ready with the infrastructure in place, ready with new state-of-the-art facilities and ready with the most spectacular stadium design." Sir Alan Cockshaw, chairman of Amec, said: "Cost was not the major issue. We concentrated more on design quality."

Amec's stadium beat the 32 other bids because of its "vision and spectacular appearance". It would have an adjacent warm-up and training track and would be close to a 6,000-seat arena for badminton and rhythmic gymnastics and a velodrome.

In an announcement made in Manchester and Atlanta, where the International Olympic Committee's executive board is meeting, the Manchester organising committee said that the Amec consortium had been selected after advice from a specially constituted design panel. The world governing bodies for athletics and football also took part. The consortium includes the architect Sir Norman Foster, Arup Associates and HOK Sport.

Work has begun on clearing the site for the stadium, using part of the £75 million the government has contributed towards the Games bid.

Last month the prime minister promised that the government would underwrite the cost of staging the event, likely to total £2.5 billion including the £1.5 billion cost of building facilities. The £1 billion cost of the event includes security, transport and accommodation for competitors, press and officials.



Murder case man 'was set up'

A MAN accused of murdering the bank clerk Alison Manwaring and her father was set up for the killings, his counsel told the Central Criminal Court yesterday.

Benjamin Laing "knew nothing about the deaths until some days later", Anthony Scrivener QC said. When he did learn that Miss Manwaring 24, and Matthew Manwaring, 62, were dead he realised what a case could be made against him, the court was told. "He later realised he had been set up."

Mr Scrivener said that Mr Laing, 25, had spent a long time protecting others but could no longer protect anyone and would explain matters. Mr Laing, a van driver, from East Ham, east London, denies murdering the Manwarings last April.

The prosecution says that he shot Mr Manwaring in the chest and then tortured and strangled Alison, cut up their bodies and buried them in his girl friend's garden. He allegedly killed them to steal a car the family had advertised.

However, Mr Laing, giving evidence in his defence, said he had left the pair alive at their home in Barking, east London, after buying the Ford Cabriolet for £7,750. He said he had made the purchase for a friend, Mark Leslie. In return, he was to have the use of the car over the weekend.

Miss Manwaring had written a receipt. "There was no further conversation and I left."

The trial continues today.

Rival bids push chess fund towards £2m

BY RAY CLANCY

MANCHESTER is today expected to keep alive its hopes of staging the world chess championship when the deadline for sealed bids expires at 5pm. A number of substantial offers could boost the prize purse to £2 million but Manchester emerged last night as the favourite.

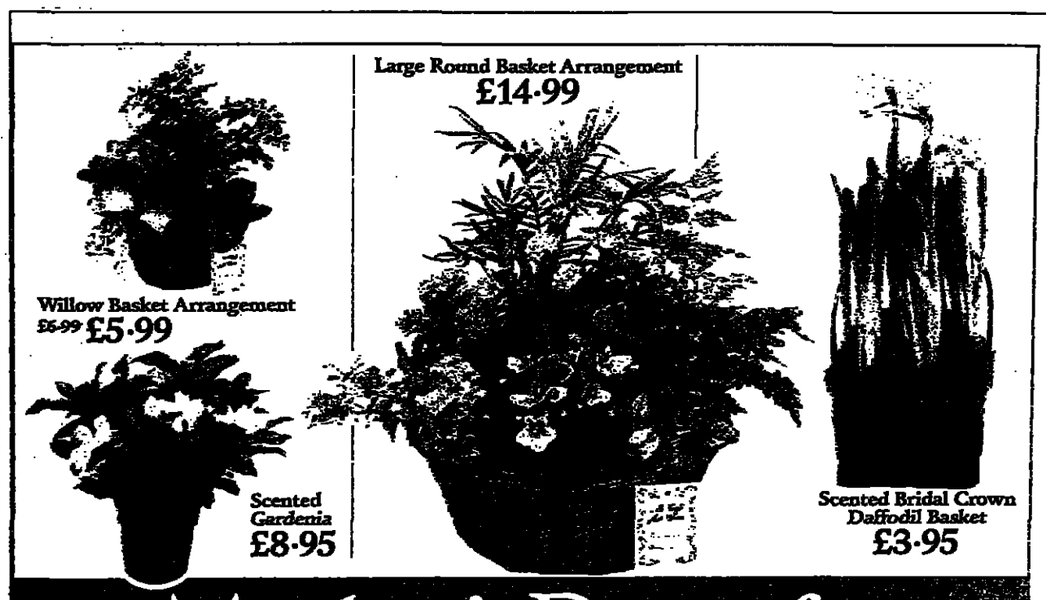
Nigel Short, who arrives in Britain on Monday after training in the United States, said he is looking forward to opening the bids in London that morning at a press conference held at Simpson's-in-the-Strand.

The issue has split the world of chess. Short and Gary Kasparov, the world champion, recently left Fide, the world chess federation, because they were unhappy about the way it announced the venue for the match without consulting them.

Short and Kasparov drew up a contract to set up the Professional Chess Association (PCA) to stage the world championship, to represent professional players and to encourage better education in the sport.

In a series of meetings this month, however, Fide has appeared to be trying to undermine the PCA. The British Chess Federation, which is affiliated to Fide, suspended Adam Black, its publicity director, because he was approached by the new association for help and advice with the world title match. In spite of the behind-the-scenes disputes, Short and Kasparov are confident that the bids for the PCA-staged event will be substantially more than the £1.2 million bid from Manchester that was announced by Fide last month but rejected by the two players.

Those expected to enter bids include Barry Hearn, the snooker and boxing promoter, Channel 4, which bid last time, The Brain Foundation and the London Chess Group. The sealed envelopes must be delivered by 5pm to the solicitors Jacques & Lewis at 2 South Square, Gray's Inn, London WC1R 5HR.



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Leukaemia cases at Dounreay blamed on influx of oilmen

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

THE cluster of childhood leukaemia cases around the Dounreay nuclear plant in Caithness was most likely the result of an infectious agent brought to the area by oil workers, according to a new study. It says that this is a far more likely cause than radioactive emissions.

The conclusion comes from a study of the timing and location of leukaemia cases in the area and supports the idea that the common element in leukaemia clusters is population mixing. The study is published in the *British Medical Journal*.

Dr Leo Kinlen and colleagues from the Cancer Research Campaign at Radcliffe Infirmary in Oxford traced details of more than 30,000 workers drawn to the area by the oil boom in the late 1970s and identified all patients under 25 who suffered from leukaemia or non-Hodgkin's lymphoma during the 1970s and 1980s. For each area, expected numbers of cases were compared with actual numbers and with the density of oil workers in the area.

In urban areas, no excess numbers of leukaemias were found. Rural areas showed an increase in cases between 1979 and 1983, concentrated where the density of the oil workers was greatest. In those areas, leukaemia was roughly doubled in children up to the age of four, though the number of cases was small (16.6 expected, 31 observed).

The result is consistent Dr Kinlen's previously advanced theory that there is an infective agent, so far unidentified, which is responsible for childhood leukaemia. In well-established urban communities, resistance to the agent has developed, but isolated communities may be more vulnerable. Epidemics may strike such areas when there is a large influx of people carrying the infective agent.

The theory suggests that clusters of leukaemia near nuclear power plants, generally in rural areas, have more to do with the arrival of building workers than with radioactive emissions from the plants. The excess of cases found in the latest study was not concentrated in the children of the oil workers, but spread throughout the area where they lived.

The analysis allowed the researchers to look especially at the area around Dounreay, where a leukaemia cluster has been detected. They show that all the increases occurred in the west Thurso post-code sector, where most of the oil workers lived, and not in the east Thurso sector. The western area had already had a large influx of nuclear workers, leading to a small increase in cases, but the significant leukaemia cluster was not observed until 1979. That timing suggested that the oil workers were the more likely cause.

CHRIS HARRIS



Democracy fears: Benazir Bhutto, the Pakistani opposition leader, at the Foreign Press Association in London yesterday. She said that democracy in Pakistan was in danger as people turned to Islamic fundamentalism

Hackers stay silent on court acquittal

BY NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

AS THE media and the police debated the ramifications of the Paul Bedworth case, in which a teenager was accused of hacking into university and EC computers, the hackers themselves were yesterday maintaining a discreet silence.

Police described the 19-year-old's acquittal as a "licence to hack". However, the hacker's forum on the CIX bulletin board, whose computer nerve centre is in Surbiton, southwest London, was quiet.

The boards — others are named Pegasus, Luzifer, IRC and Black Ice — can be dialled using a computer and a modem from anywhere in the world, often for the price of a local telephone call. They were the first place that Ken Lindup looked when he was asked to investigate computer hacking.

The boards are based in Britain, the Continent and America and their numbers are published in specialist magazines. They allow people to "meet" in a forum to discuss, via electronic messages, legitimate subjects such as medicine or world affairs. They are also where hackers swap information and brag about their latest security breach. It is here that young impressionable minds are often recruited into this clandestine world.

Mr Lindup, who works for the British branch of SRI International, the former Stanford Research Institute, is not surprised that the hackers have yet to comment on the trial at Southwark Crown Court. The CIX board has been quiet since the enactment of the 1990 Computer Misuse Act. Most of the response was expected on the US Internet Relay Chat at midnight British time, Mr Lindup said. It can be accessed via CIX.

Many British hackers are said to burn the midnight oil, waiting until parents are asleep and West Coast computer buffs come on line.

Another reason why British and European bulletin boards appear silent about the trial is because many of the real hackers "meet" in protected forums. These most secretive parts of boards are entered by invitation only with access controlled by secret codes and passwords.

Mr Lindup said access might be allowed only after the would-be entrant has passed complex hacking tests.

Caesareans double in wake of legal action

BY JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

THE number of babies born by Caesarean section has more than doubled in the past 15 years because of the fear of litigation among doctors and midwives if something goes wrong during normal birth.

More than one in eight babies is now born by Caesarean compared with one in 17 in 1975. In some hospitals, Caesareans account for more than one in five deliveries. The use of the procedure has been rising steadily for 20 years, from one in twenty deliveries in 1970 to the present level, but has failed to stem the growth of litigation.

The Royal College of Midwives said the fear of being sued had prompted a crisis in midwifery, which has fuelled the growth in Caesareans. The number of court cases claiming negligence trebled during the late 1980s to 200 a year and the extension of legal aid to infants in 1990 has caused a new flood of claims. At least 600 are waiting to come to court.

In some parts of the United States, it is almost impossible to find an obstetrician prepared to deliver a baby because of the risks of litigation. Sky high malpractice insurance premiums have driven many doctors out of maternity care.

Easier access to the law in America has created a bigger problem of defensive medicine. One in four babies is born by Caesarean.

Fears that maternity care in Britain could follow the American example are behind the present drive back towards a midwife-led, community-based service.

The Royal College of Midwives launched a booklet yesterday to help midwives to defend themselves against litigation, and said that the sudden leap in the number of cases could make doctors and midwives still more defensive.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Jet missed Piggott's aircraft by 10ft

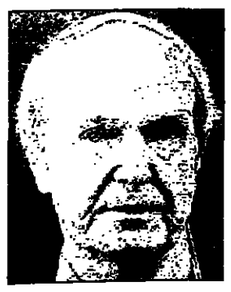
A light aircraft carrying Lester Piggott and three other leading jockeys came within 10ft of being hit by an RAF Tornado on a routine exercise, an official report disclosed yesterday. Piggott, Michael Hills, Philip Robinson and George Duffield were hurled out of their seats by the turbulence and the pilot thought that their plane had been hit. After the incident last August, Piggott said: "It nearly blew us away and we all finished up in the roof."

The fighter pilot appeared to see the Piper PA34 "a split second before" the potential collision and rolled the jet over so its belly skimmed past the Piper. The report from the Joint Airmiss Working Group criticised air traffic controllers at Waddington, Lincolnshire, for their poor judgment in allowing the Tornado, from RAF Coningsby, Lincolnshire, "to climb into confliction" with the Piper.

Lost painting's £2m tag

A rediscovered work by the German Romantic painter Caspar David Friedrich is expected to fetch more than £2 million at Christie's in May. The tiny painting is barely discernible through dirt and bears the scar of amateur patching-up by a previous owner. *Walk at Dusk* was one of the artist's last works before a stroke disabled him in 1835.

Moore centre rejected



Proposals to develop the workshop and former home of Henry Moore, left, at Perry Green, Hertfordshire, were rejected yesterday by the environment secretary, Michael Howard said the Henry Moore Foundation's plans to improve facilities would have attracted 10,000 people a year. Roads to the hamlet would have been unable to cope with the increased traffic.

Shark plot Turk jailed

A Turk was jailed for nine years for trying to have his ex-lover killed and fed to sharks in Trinidad. A jury at Maidstone Crown Court convicted Hakan Surmeli, 28, of soliciting an undercover policeman who posed as an assassin to murder his Trinidadian gid friend. They had met at a college in Sevenoaks, Kent.

Girl starts gene therapy

An eight-month-old baby girl who suffers from a fatal immune deficiency disease has become the first patient in Britain to start a revolutionary gene therapy. An operation to remove bone marrow was carried out on Carly Todd, from Lennoxtown near Glasgow, at the Hospital for Sick Children in Great Ormond Street, London. The sample has gone to Holland where scientists will add corrected genes into the stem cells. These will be injected back into Carly's bloodstream to find their way back to her bone marrow.

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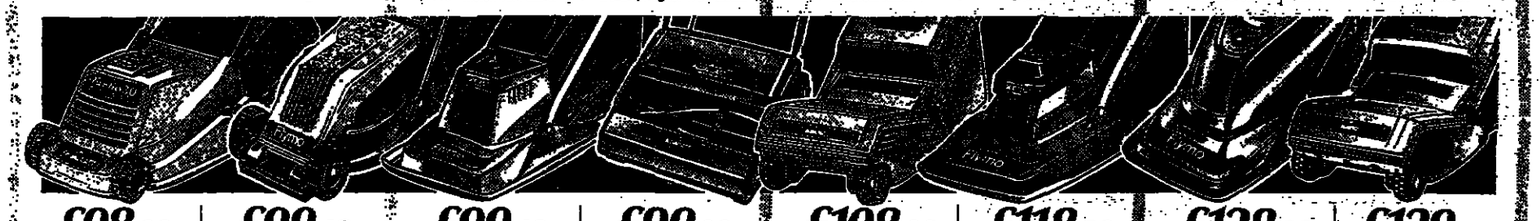
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£98.99 Qualcast Turbo 30 Rotary Mower. 12" cut. 3 cutting heights. Safety blade brake. 12m cable. 850w. motor. Grass bag.

£99.49 Flymo Chevron RE300 Wheeled Rotary Mower. 12" cut. Safety blade brake. 15m cable. 900 watt motor. Grass box and rear roller.

£99.49 Flymo Sprintmaster XE250 Hover Mower. 10" cut. Safety blade brake. 15m cable. 900 watt motor. Includes grass box.

£99.99 Qualcast Concorde E35 De Luxe Cylinder Mower. 14" cut. 3 cutting heights. 12m cable. 325 watt motor. Includes grass box.

£108.99 Qualcast Concorde XR30 Cylinder Mower. 12" cut. 6 cutting heights. 12m cable. 280 watt motor. Includes grass box.

£118.99 Flymo Sprintmaster XE300 Hover Mower. 12" cut. Safety blade brake. 15m cable. 1,150 watt motor. Includes grass box.

£128.99 Flymo Hovervac HV3000 Electric Hover Mower. 12" cut. 4 cutting heights. 15m cable. Grass box. 1,200w. Safety blade brake.

£129.99 Qualcast Concorde XR35 Cylinder Mower. 14" cut. 6 cutting heights. 12m cable. 325 watt motor. Includes grass box.



£138.99 Flymo Cheveron RE350 Wheeled Rotary Mower. 14" cut. Safety blade brake. 15m cable. 1300 watt motor. Grass bag and rear roller.

£138.99 Black & Decker GR360c Stripemaster Rotary Mower. 13" cut. 5 cutting heights. 25m cable. 1,150 watt motor. Grass box and rear roller.

£139.99 Flymo Hoverstripe RXE300 Hover Mower. 12" cut. Safety blade brake. 15m cable. 1,150 watt motor. Grass box and rear roller.

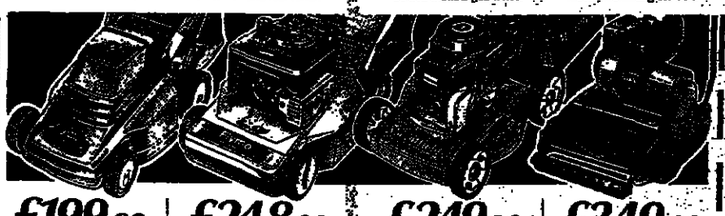
£149.99 Mountfield 420e Laser Rotary Mower. 16½" cut. 5 cutting heights. 15m cable. 1,100 watt. Grass box. 12 months guarantee.

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£159.99 Mountfield 420p Laser Petrol Rotary Mower. 16½" cut. 5 cutting heights. 3.5 H.P. Petrol Mower. Grass box. 12 months guarantee.

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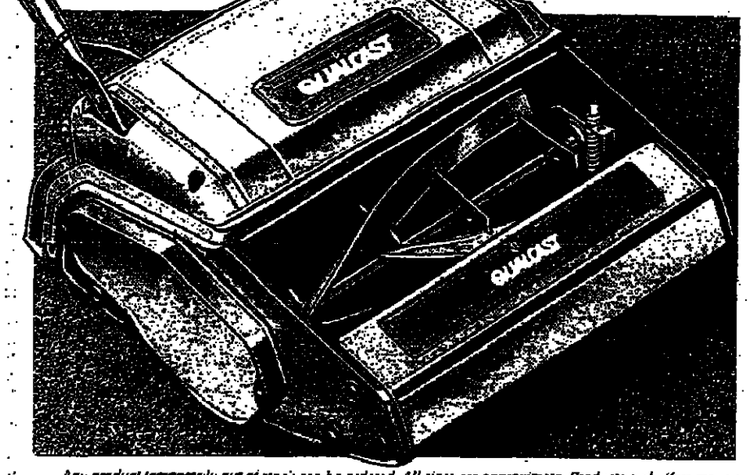
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£349.99 Qualcast Suffolk Punch 35s Cylinder Mower. 14" cut. Variable cutting heights. 114cc petrol motor. Includes grass box.



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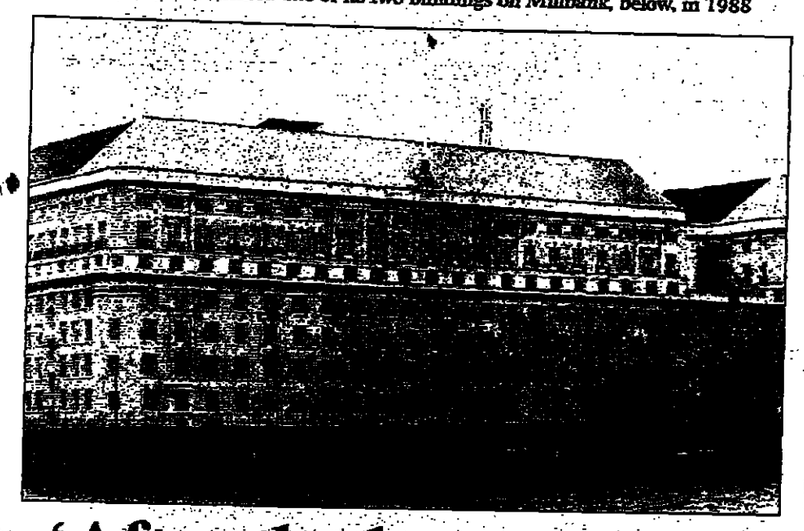
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Exodus: employers vote with their (square) feet



Block release: the MoD, above, once had 16,500 staff in Whitehall, now there are 9,300. ICI vacated one of its two buildings on Millbank, below, in 1988



High unemployment and empty offices are sullying London

By Ian Murray

A £1 MILLION campaign to sell London worldwide as an ideal office location was launched yesterday, as the jobless figures disclosed that the capital was one of only three areas where unemployment rose last month. The number out of work in the greater London area has grown by 247 per cent in three years, compared with 88 per cent in the rest of the country.

The square mile of the City, where one pound in every seven earned abroad by the British economy is generated, has been hardest hit. More than 50,000 of the 330,000 jobs that existed there in 1989 have gone. Although the workforce still earns the nation £17 billion a year, the unemployment rate in the City has soared to more than 15 per cent, compared with the 12 per cent average in the North of England.

The failure of the Taurus computer share-settlement system has added 270 to the 1,000 made redundant by the Stock Exchange since 1990, when there were 2,730 on the payroll. Half those working there at the time of Big Bang in 1986 have lost their jobs — proof that the financial industry that once made London pre-eminent have become an unemployment blackspot.

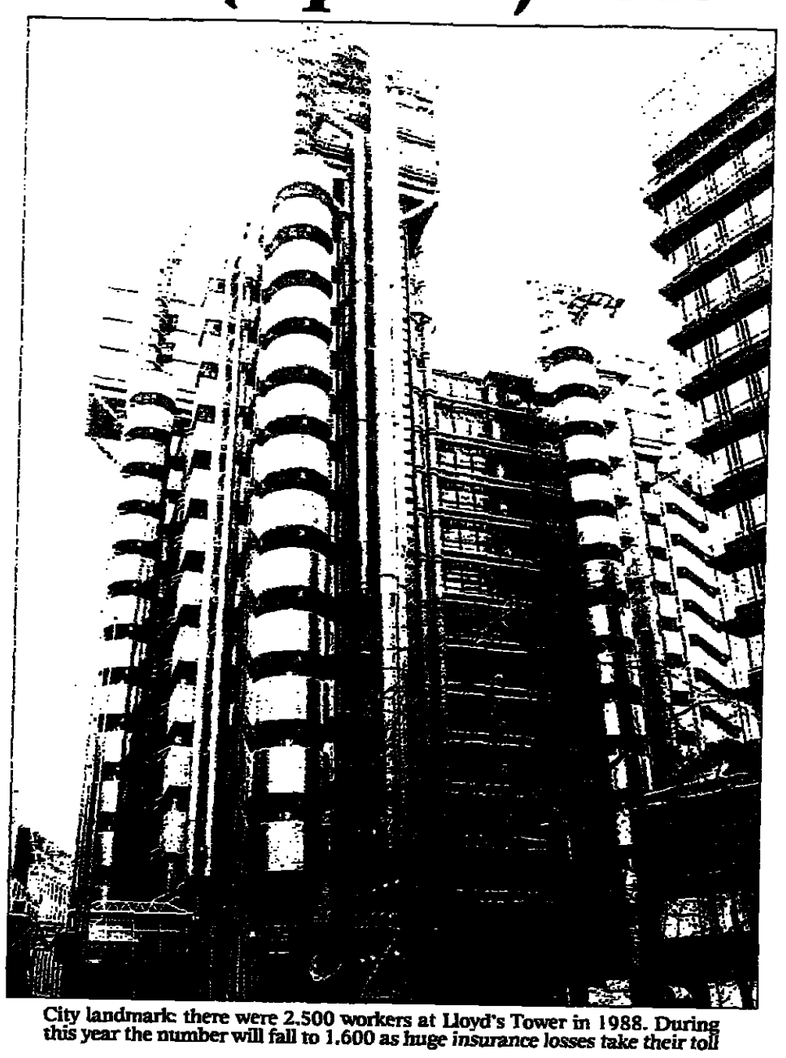
The rest of the capital is little better off. Every day for more than a year an average of 410 Londoners have joined the dole queue. In 1990, 1.15 million people commuted into the capital to work each day. Since then, 100,000 jobs have gone in the financial services sector and 112,000 in the distribution trades.

The daily commuter total was down to 980,000 last month, with no sign that the slide was slowing. There are 58 people chasing every available job in London, well over double the nationwide average.

As the jobs have disappeared, offices have closed and expensive new developments have been unable to find tenants. Terrorist bombings have played a part in scaring away business, but inducements to relocate to the provinces, with cheaper rents and lower wages, have been far more significant.

As a result, there is 32 million sq ft of empty offices in London, almost 17 per cent of the total. Rents are falling to nearer the levels of the provincial cities that lured so many large companies away during the heyday of decentralisation in the 1970s and early 1980s.

London had also suffered from the decline of heavy industries. Twenty years ago, 2,000 worked at Hobart House, the HQ of British Coal. Only 200 work there today and fresh pit closures will cut the number further.



City landmark: there were 2,500 workers at Lloyd's Tower in 1988. During this year the number will fall to 1,600 as huge insurance losses take their toll

'After the boom years, everything is gloom'

MANY regard the exodus from London office space as the product of business strategies that have turned out to have more flaws than virtues (Ian Murray writes).

Michael Cassidy, chairman of the policy and resources committee of the Corporation of London, said: "All the arguments that have done much to destroy London now shown to be flawed.

"It was nonsense to ... to greenfield sites ... necessary to build an expensive infrastructure just to make it possible for an office to function. What they should have been doing was building on to past investment in London, rather than building it all over again elsewhere at double the cost.

"What we must do now for the sake of the nation's economy is get London's highly skilled workforce back to work." Mr Cassidy said. "These are people who have all the computer skills and financial know-how the country needs, but the longer they stay out of work the more danger there is that these advantages will become outdated.

"The government just will not back us, while the French and the Germans throw money at the financial services in their countries to make them competitive. The country will suffer if we fail."

Yesterday, Mr Cassidy launched the corporation's international campaign to market London as the perfect place to have an office. "The world already knows London is the best, but we have to give the idea a nudge."

A survey by *The Times* of some of the capital's office blocks shows how staff levels have been eroded. The recession has contributed but so too have policies of decentralisation and rationalisation. Unemployment in the regions has been transferred to the capital, where it is potentially more damaging to the national economy.

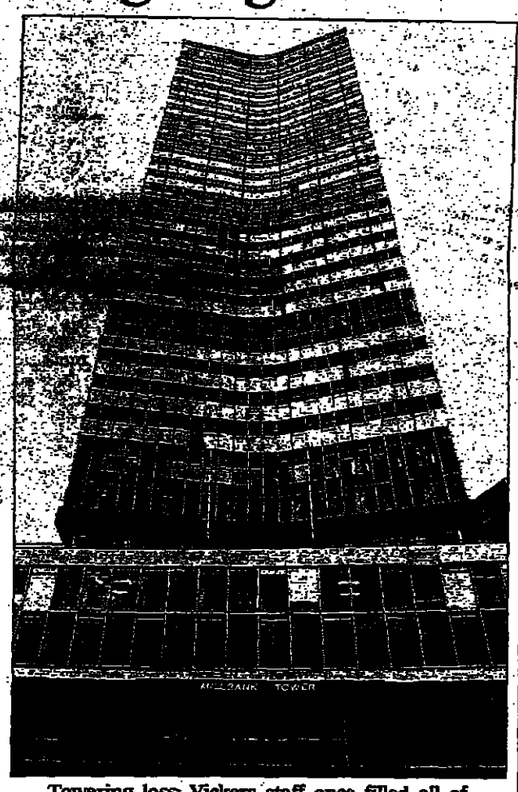
Some firms have moved staff for obvious geographical reasons. BP and Shell have moved many to Aberdeen to be nearer their North Sea interests.

Others have simply taken advantage of a cheap greenfield site. Nationwide building society, for example, once employed 200 staff at its headquarters in Holborn, but has moved them all to Swindon, Wiltshire.

The employer moving most staff out of London has been the government. There were 136,300 civil servants working in or around London in 1980 out of a nationwide total of 222,400. By last year the civil service had shrunk to 102,500, of which 36,000 worked in the South East, including just 21,000 in the capital. Nearly half of the London total works for the Ministry of Defence, which is planning to relocate many of its operations.

In spite of large-scale redundancies, some headquarters and major operations have managed to maintain full staff levels. British Gas, for example, keeps a full complement of 380 at its premises in Grosvenor Road, SW1, although it is shedding 1,200 of its London-based staff. National Westminster Bank is closing dozens of branches in London, but will keep a full complement of 2,500 staff at its City tower by reorganising departments.

"After the boom years, everything now is gloom." Mr Cassidy said. "London is in serious trouble."



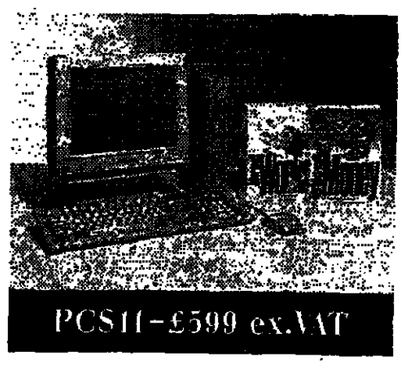
Towering loss: Vickers staff once filled all of Millbank Tower. Only 55 are left today



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Survey shows pride in BBC

By Alexandra Frean, Media Correspondent

A CLEAR majority of the public feels proud of the BBC and the quality of service it provides, according to an opinion poll conducted before the dispute over John Birt's tax affairs.

The poll, carried out by the market research organisation MORI on behalf of *Reader's Digest*, shows that 53 per cent are proud of the BBC, compared with 23 per cent who are not. Pride is highest among higher income groups, at 66 per cent, and older people, at 59 per cent.

The poll also shows that nearly 60 per cent think that the quality of television broadcasting would deteriorate if the BBC ceased to exist, and that a minority of viewers believes that there is too much sex and violence on BBC television.

Although the findings on public pride in the BBC are likely to be welcomed by the director-general's supporters, Professor Robert Worcester, chairman of MORI, believes that the figures have been undermined by the Birt affair. "A great deal has come out about how the BBC is managed since we conducted this poll. The current crisis hits right at the foundations of the corporation," he said.

The findings on televised sex and violence reveal substantial disparities between young and old. Forty per cent of respondents believe that there is too much violence, but the figure is only 17 per cent among 15 to 24-year-olds, compared with 68 per cent among people aged 65 and over. While only 30 per cent believe that there is too much sex on television, the figure is 66 per cent among the 65-plus age group.

The survey of 2,012 adults aged over 15 also shows increasing unhappiness about the financing of the BBC. Three in five favour replacing the licence fee with advertising. Twenty-one per cent of radio listeners favour an all-day news channel.

Valerie Grove, page 16

Parents ask court to lock up boy

By Paul Wilkinson

THE parents of a 12-year-old boy asked a court yesterday to lock him up after hearing how he repeatedly put concrete blocks on a stretch of high-speed rail track.

On four occasions the boy, from Easingwold, North Yorkshire, put slabs on the King's Cross to Edinburgh line where trains regularly travel at 110mph. He told police he did it for enjoyment and could not help himself.

His mother told Easingwold Youth Court that her son, who was cautioned by police last December for setting fire to straw bales, had been involved in many other unreported incidents, including arson attacks on his school and the school bus.

His father said: "We were always apologising and paying people for the trouble he caused. We feel he is a danger. He needs some help before it is too late."

The boy admitted causing an obstruction on the line near Raskelf, North Yorkshire, and asked for two earlier incidents to be considered. He was remanded to the care of social services while reports are prepared.

Stonehenge vision is a land before cars

By Tim Jones
Transport Correspondent

■ *Stonehenge is to have its dignity restored after decades of being diminished and demeaned by intrusive road traffic*

PROPOSALS to rescue Stonehenge from the motor car and restore an air of isolation and wonder to the prehistoric monument were announced yesterday.

Kenneth Carlisle, the roads minister, said the schemes offered an opportunity which would not arise again for at least a hundred years. He conceded that the work could not be completed until the turn of the century.

At present, Stonehenge appears at times to be a bizarre traffic island as more than 20,000 vehicles a day thunder within 200 yards on either side of it.

Most of that traffic uses the A303 between Amesbury and Berwick Downs. The intrusive sights and sounds spoil what should be a special experience for the million people who visit the monument each year. The A344 passes even closer to the site.

One proposal, costed at £44 million, would widen the A303 and route it through a deep cutting and a 500-metre tunnel. The other scheme, put at £22 million, would divert the road a mile away, out of sight from the stones.

Mr Carlisle said the quality of Stonehenge had been terribly damaged. "It is beautiful and moving in its own right and connects us with the earliest beginnings of our nation.

"Thomas Hardy described it as 'the lonely temple of the winds'. But that quality has been harmed by its man-made surroundings and by the restless presence of traffic. Our proposals offer us the hope of returning Stonehenge to its landscape and to the winds."

Conscious of the sensitivity surrounding any proposal for Stonehenge, Mr Carlise is planning to hold seminars for the archaeological profession in London in Wiltshire before any decison is taken. The consultation process will almost inevitably lead to a public enquiry. A final decision is not expected for a year *or more.*

The bypass proposals are part of an overall strategy to restore dignity to Stonehenge. English Heritage has said that many people consider the facilities and access to the monument to be a national disgrace and has announced a £15 million project to conserve it and improve visitors' access.

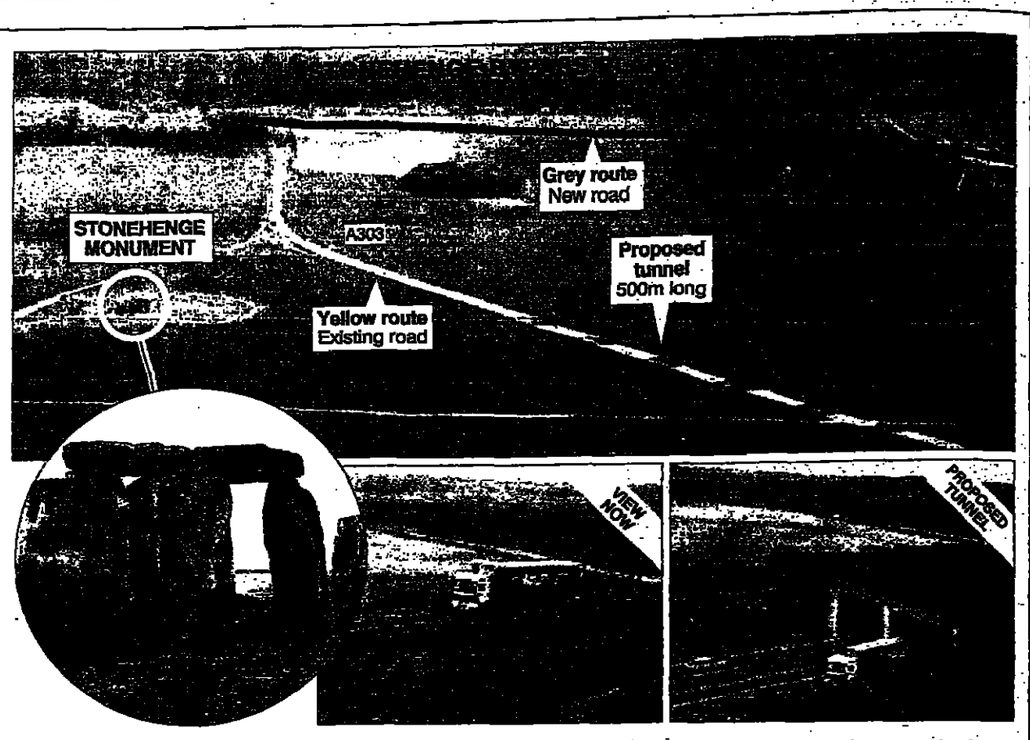
English Heritage has submitted proposals that involve the closure of the A344 but that plan is being contested by *Salisbury District Council and* may be resolved at a public enquiry.

Archaeologists believe they have identified several new monuments as a result of aerial photographs taken by the Royal Commission on *Historical Monuments Air* Photography Unit, which is closely involved in the Stonehenge bypass proposals. These include two probable Neolithic henges and a late Iron Age or Roman village.

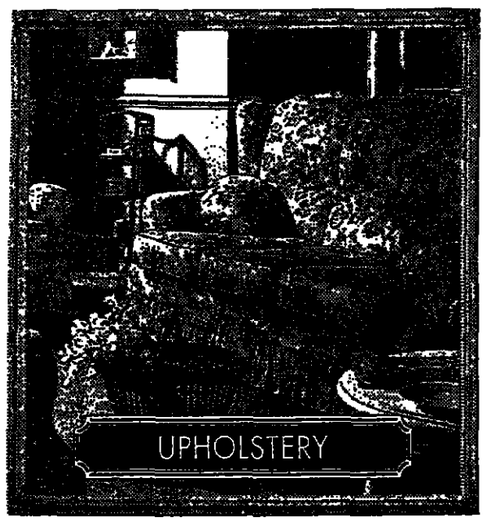
Because of the sensitivity of *Stonehenge* and its designation as a World Heritage Site, the proposals have been subject to intense surveys by a wide range of experts.

Interpretation of the photographs has identified crop and soil marks, sometimes connected to upstanding monuments but often of archaeological features buried or levelled by ploughing.

These range from Neolithic and Bronze Age ritual funeral landscapes to Saxon or Medieval settlements. The initial reports of the archaeological fieldwork will be available for inspection at the public consultation exhibitions and will also be the subject of two seminars organised for archaeologists.



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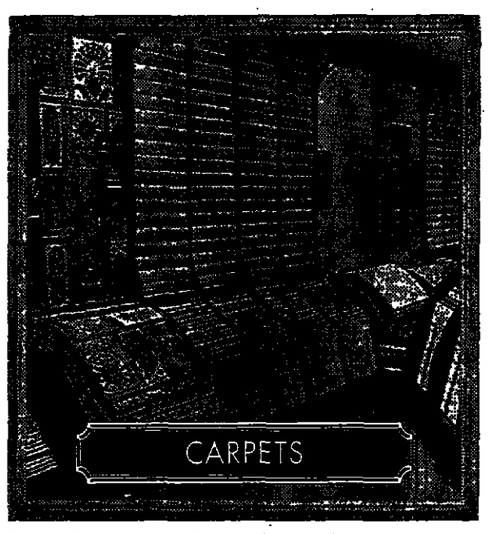


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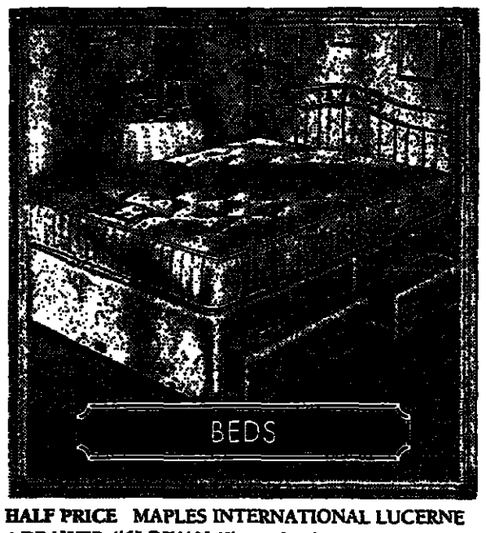
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THE FINE ART OF FURNISHING

Princess pleads for help to rescue homeless teenagers

THE Princess of Wales made an impassioned plea for help *yesterday to stop the "terrible* waste of young lives" caused by teenage homelessness. She appealed for society to take notice of the problems faced by young people driven from their homes by sexual abuse, violence or neglect.

Such youngsters stumbled "from one nightmare into another", often falling prey to drugs, prostitution, disease and despair, she told a conference on homelessness in London. She dismissed the idea that homeless teenagers were "designer beggars" intent on fleecing the public of money for drink and drugs. She also rejected suggestions that they simply needed to telephone home to solve differences with their parents.

The princess said that children who did not receive love and affection at home often felt the only way out was "to become invisible" and leave. "Whether they have left home because of sexual abuse, violence or simple neglect, leaving home is a desperate but often courageous last resort.

"Nearly a third of young people living on the street have spent most of their lives in care. When we, as a society, take over the parenting of a child — a child already damaged by previous experiences — we need to care for them as we would our own children. We can never replace their parents but, like any family, we need to listen to the needs of these young people — to offer them friendship and understanding as well as a safe place to live."

Centrepoint, the conference organiser, released a report showing that many councils in London — where youth homelessness is particularly acute — are failing to tackle the problem effectively. The charity, which runs hostels across London, believes that homelessness has worsened since the passing of the Children Act two years ago, which was supposed to protect young people who left home.

Centrepoint's survey of 32 London social services departments found that more than half had not developed policies to meet their legal duty to accommodate 16 and 17-year-olds whose welfare was at risk. Forty-four per cent carried out no assessments on homeless youngsters and believed that homelessness alone was not a sufficient condition to provide accommodation. Some 77 per cent did not have sufficient accommodation to meet the needs of homeless 16 and 17-year-olds.

Tim Yeo, a junior health minister, welcomed the report, which he said reflected some of the government's concerns. He announced three further years of funding of the charity First Key, worth £444,000, for its work advising councils on after-care services for young people. The government had already agreed to provide a further £86 million over three years to reduce the number of people sleeping rough in London.



The princess yesterday: "Courageous last resort"

Heritage lobby calls for Stevens to resign

By Nicholas Watt

CONSERVATIONISTS demanded the resignation of Jocelyn Stevens as chairman of English Heritage yesterday after he removed one of his senior executives. Sophie Andreae, head of the London division, is leaving five months before the end of her five-year contract "to spend more time with her family".

Members of English Heritage's London advisory committee scoffed at the official explanation and said that Ms Andreae's departure highlighted Mr Stevens's "controversial" rule. One member, who did not want to be named, said: "Jocelyn Stevens is not the right man for the job. He is not sensitive enough and the axe has been wielded destructively. Staff at English Heritage are not getting on with creative work because they are politicking all the time."

Ms Andreae, 38, was appointed to head the London division in 1988 after her work as chairman of Save Britain's Heritage. She is understood to have disagreed with English Heritage's "forward strategy" policy, which aimed to transfer her conservation powers over Grade II listed buildings to individual boroughs. She will be replaced by Paul Drury, her deputy, who was responsible for the strategy document.

Mr Stevens was frustrated by opposition from the committee and some boroughs, which led to a climbdown over the policy last month. *Opponents* argued that Ms Andreae's division had years of expertise, which the boroughs did not possess. Another unnamed member of the committee was worried that Ms Andreae's departure would signal the return of the original strategy.

Teresa Sladen, secretary of the Victorian Society, said: "We are shocked at what has happened. Sophie was an excellent head of the London division. Staff there are demoralised and this can only make matters worse."

Nicky O'Reilly, head of public affairs at English Heritage, said that Ms Andreae was leaving as part of a restructuring move.

Disputes over pit bull law cost millions in kennel fees

By Louise Hidalgo

THOUSANDS of dogs are being detained at a cost to the taxpayer of several million pounds a year because of flaws in the dangerous dogs legislation, according to vets.

With a shortage of expert witnesses and the complex nature of the law, cases may take more than a year to reach court. When they do, defendants claim they are having to go to extraordinary lengths to prove their dogs are not pit bull terriers or other breeds covered by the 1991 Dangerous Dogs Act.

More than 300 dogs, seized by the police as possible pit bulls, are being held in police custody in the London area alone, awaiting trial. Nationally, the number is thought to be close to 3,000, costing the taxpayer about £25,000 a day in kennel fees, according to April Jones, a London vet who has acted as a defence expert in such dog cases around the country.

Ms Jones said the cost of one recent case, in which the dog was released to its owner after three adjournments and 13 months in custody, was approaching £40,000. She estimated that another, which goes to the Court of Appeal next month, could total £60,000.

"The system is grinding to a halt. The Crown Prosecution Service relies mainly on three expert witnesses which it uses regularly, but they can only be in one part of the country at a time. Cases get adjourned at the last minute and the costs escalate," she said.

The costly process is being played out every week in courts around the country. At Mold magistrates' court, Clwyd, the trial of three dog owners charged under the act is now in its fourth week. The 27 dogs involved have been held since last July and North Wales police have had to bear the cost of kennelling, estimated at upwards of £50,000.

Other dog experts agree that the act, passed after many people were savaged by dogs, has gone badly wrong.

Dr Roger Mugford, of the Animal Behaviour Centre, has acted as a defence expert in 50 cases. Of those, half went to trial with 22 resulting in the dog's release.

"The defence is being forced to go to extraordinary lengths to prove that a dog, which in some cases looks more like a Jack Russell, is not a pit bull. The legislation is also a minefield of legal complexity and few solicitors and barristers are specialist in it. The result is harm to dogs, injustice to owners and vast expense to the taxpayer."

Any unregistered pit bull must be put down if discovered. About half of Britain's 10,000 pit bulls are believed to have been registered; the rest are thought to have "gone underground".

The British Veterinary Association, which has also lobbied for the act's reform, says the difficulty arises with dogs that lie on the fringes of the Staffordshire terrier, the breed most commonly mistaken for a pit bull.

Virginia Thomas, of the association, said: "Many family dogs are being destroyed on the grounds that they are large, ugly and of indeterminate breed. It is like saying a person should be locked up simply because they look like a criminal."

The association wants the mandatory putting down removed, owners given a second chance to register dogs, bail for dogs seized by the police and expert panels to assess the breed of dogs.

Film fraternity bites back in video violence debate

By Alison Roberts
Arts Reporter

THE British film fraternity has hit back at those who blame films and videos for corrupting young people.

The British Film Institute has entered the debate on screen violence with a strong defence of the video as a democratic means of access to modern culture.

Next week's edition of the magazine *Sight and Sound*, published by the institute, says "videos are good for you" and enlists household names to its cause. Martin Amis, the novelist, says that the video recorder can bring families together.

"Home video is taking over because it is much easier to watch something than to read," he says. "No one is going to sit down and read *Bleak House* to the family any more, but they can all huddle up happily in front of Charles Bronson."

Fay Weldon, the writer, is also supportive of the video. "People who love stories love film and video just as they love books. They are all forms of fiction."

Philip Dodd, the magazine's editor, said that the current moral panic was unfocused and ignored artistic and cultural arguments. "Rather than condemning video, politicians ought to persuade the Department of National Heritage to support their local video shop."

Meanwhile, figures to be released at the end of the week show that there are ten films carrying an 18 classification in this week's top 20 rented videos. *Alien 3* comes in at number three while several adult thrillers are in the top ten. *Basic Instinct* and *Cape Fear* also remain in the top league.



Video niceties: Amis, huddling up happily with Bronson; and Weldon, loving a video like a good book

The British Film Institute called for wide research into parental supervision and the type of video young people watch at home. Wilf Stevenson, the institute's director, said he did not believe in a direct link between screen violence and violent behaviour in children.

"Videos and films at the cinema are only moving pictures which somebody has assessed and classified," he said. "Children are more sophisticated than we give them credit for. That is why the government's moves to take media studies out of the national curriculum is mad. You must not shut films down, you must provide better education about them."

Meanwhile, the director general of the British Videogram Association, whose members include the largest Hollywood video distribution companies, is calling for the re-establishment of the Video Advertising Review Committee. Norman Abbott said that the standard of advertisements for new videos was declining and becoming more offensive. The committee, which used to vet material, was disbanded several years ago.

Mr Abbott said some rental outlets were still hiring adult videos to children, causing a stream of prosecutions. He said, however, that it would be difficult to stop the free availability of adult-rated videos. "It would take pressure on Hollywood production companies to change the type of films that children can see. Britain only makes up 3 per cent of the international market and very few countries ever complain to them so Hollywood is not likely to take much notice."

More than a million videos are rented each week, and the advent of the laser disc is likely to mean more people watching films at home. Home videos are subject to stricter censorship and classification than films shown in the cinema. There is no equivalent of the 12 certificate for videos — all 12-rated cinema films are automatically given a 15 rating.

Pirate copies of adult films make the problem worse. Mr Abbott said that it was fairly easy for children as young as 11 to obtain illegally copied films.

Little research has been carried out into home video audiences. While the composition of cinema audiences has been thoroughly investigated by advertisers, there has, until now, been little demand for a similar analysis of home audiences.

Valerie Grove, page 16

Outbreak tests EC animal rule

By Michael Hornsby
Agriculture Correspondent

OUTBREAKS of foot-and-mouth disease in Italy have given new EC animal health regulations their first serious test. There had been no reports of the disease anywhere in the EC for three and a half years. Infected animals, imported from the war-torn former Yugoslavia are thought to be the source.

Animal health experts fear foot-and-mouth could spread much more quickly through the Community than in the past because livestock are no longer vaccinated against the disease. "If the disease gets outside Italy, it could spread like a bushfire," one vaccinologist said.

In Rome, the director-general of the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organisation said: "If this latest outbreak is not stamped out at once, the cost to trade in Europe and beyond would be inestimable." An international meeting of animal health officials in Paris today will discuss more effective ways of controlling the disease.

Most EC states hold annual mass vaccinations of farm animals against foot-and-mouth. In August 1991, as part of the harmonisation of animal health rules required by the single market, this was abandoned for a British and Irish policy of slaughtering and burning or burying infected livestock.

Bar challenges extra power for solicitors

By Frances Gibb, Legal Correspondent

THE Bar has mounted a new offensive to block solicitors from winning the right to conduct cases in the higher courts.

The move comes nearly two years after the government introduced legislation to break the Bar's monopoly of the higher courts with the Courts and Legal Services Act 1990. But as yet no solicitor has gained entry to the higher courts: the issue is still awaiting a final decision by the Lord Chancellor and four senior judges after months of dispute.

The Bar has warned the Office of Fair Trading that if solicitors are allowed into the crown courts and above, where the Bar enjoys a monopoly, there could be a drastic reduction in the size of the 6,000-strong independent Bar.

In a 32-point unpublished document to Sir Bryan Carsberg, Director-General of Fair Trading, the Bar says that Law Society proposals for solicitors to become advocates in the higher courts would "distort competition in the market for advocacy services".

David Tench, director of legal affairs at the Consumers' Association, which was at the forefront of the move to break up the legal profession's monopolies, said: "It's time the Bar woke up to the reality that solicitors are going to be advocates in the higher courts whether they like it or not. It does no credit to the Bar to go on fighting and fighting the past."

The document makes clear that although, publicly, the Bar accepts the inevitability of solicitor-advocates, privately it is fighting as hard as ever to resist them. It is insisting on terms which, solicitors say, are so restrictive that no solicitor will bother to enter the higher courts at all.

Primary school heads fight return of selective schooling

By Ben Preston
Education Reporter

THE first grant-maintained comprehensive school to gain approval to become a grammar faces a campaign of resistance by neighbouring primary schools.

Head teachers are protesting to John Patten, the education secretary, about his decision last week to allow Queen Elizabeth Grammar School in Penrith, Cumbria, to select all pupils by academic ability at the age of 11. The school has been comprehensive since 1969.

Nationally, Mr Patten's decision was seen as signalling the revival of selective education, and giving grant-maintained schools more flexibility in the emerging market place. Three more opt-out schools were recently permitted to select up to half of their intake and six former grammar schools are said to be interested in reverting to full selection.

Mr Patten said he wanted to encourage choice between different types of schools and did not wish "rigidity to be a dampener on the development of good schools".

But in Penrith, opponents of the decision to authorise selection from September 1994



Patten: encouraging choice between schools

argue that it will reduce, rather than increase, parental choice. Ullswater High School, a comprehensive that shares its catchment area with Queen Elizabeth, is refusing to accept "secondary modern status imposed by the Secretary of State". David Robinson, the head, said it would continue to compete for bright pupils.

Head teachers of most of the primaries that supply pupils to Queen Elizabeth and Ullswater said they would refuse to advise parents about which school would be appropriate for their child. They are seeking legal advice about continuing to implement a reading comprehension test that Queen Elizabeth's governors want to use as part of the selection process.

Rod Smith, chairman of the Primary Heads' Association in Cumbria, said between 25 and 30 local heads had agreed not to be part of any recommendation system. "Parents are likely to put schools, heads and teachers under pressure to say whether they would like children to go to one school or the other. We will give them details about their children and leave it to them to make an informed choice."

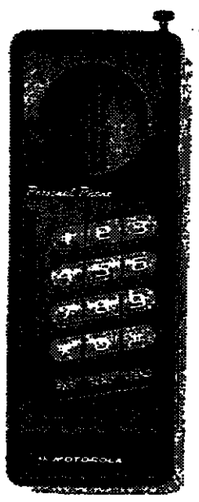
The heads said in a letter to Mr Patten: "If one of only two schools is permitted to impose selection, choice and diversity would be a luxury rationed to a minority — for the majority of young people there would be neither."

Donald Fay, head of Queen Elizabeth, said children would be admitted on the basis of an interview and evidence of their academic achievement. "We will not be asking anything extra from primary heads . . . I hope they concentrate on educational concerns rather than political," he said.

Mr Robinson said: "Mr Patten has dredged up a tool from the past that has no relevance to the demands of education in the 21st century."

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Public sector pay ceiling set to go

BY NICHOLAS WOOD AND JILL SHERMAN

THE 1.5 per cent ceiling on public sector pay rises will almost certainly be scrapped next year. Senior ministers said yesterday that it was "highly unlikely" that they would again rely on a rigid pay norm to buttress their efforts to control public spending and rein in the spiralling £50 billion deficit.

However, their plans to abandon what amounts to a public sector pay policy do not mean any significant relaxation of existing policy. The next round of pay bargaining will take place against the background of a ministerial determination to apply tight constraints and to cut spending plans to below the Autumn Statement "ceilings".

The government's stance is a reprieve for the pay review bodies covering more than one million workers. Public sector groups will need a particularly good case if they are to breach the Treasury's forecast of inflation at just under 3 per cent for 1994-5.

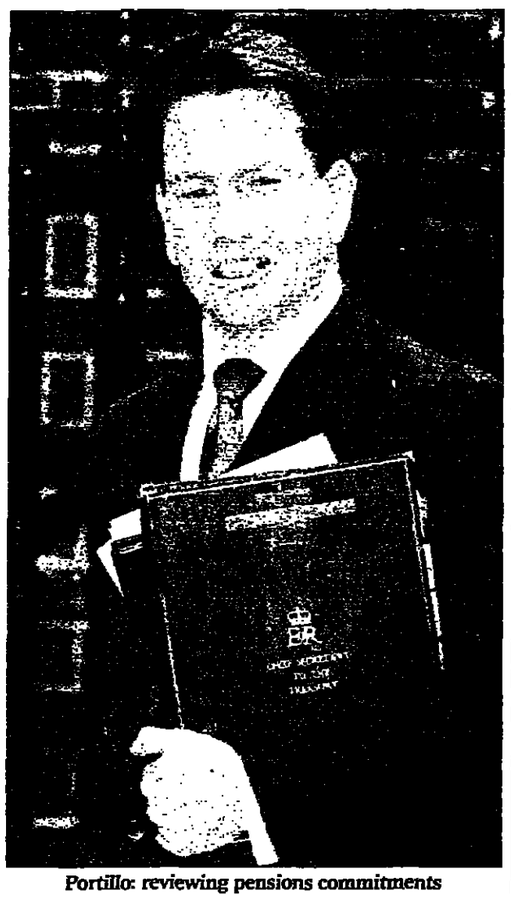
Ministers are opposed to reimposing a blanket pay norm next year for fear of generating anomalies. They are worried that a continued crude form of Whitehall interference could deny certain groups deserved rises. They are also opposed to extended pay policies on ideological grounds.

Senior Treasury sources pointed out that experience suggested that pay policies were only effective in the short term and that they soon fell victim to pent-up demands if they were kept too long.

A formal announcement of the government's attitude towards the coming pay bargaining round is expected to await the outcome of this year's spending round and the Chancellor's second Budget in late November. However, the position being adopted by ministers means that the pay review bodies covering teachers, doctors, nurses, the armed forces and senior civil servants and judges will be encouraged to make recommendations early next year about pay levels for 1994-5. Some groups may qualify for special treatment but the majority of any recommended awards above 3 per cent will be cut back or phased in by the prime minister.

Ministerial intentions on pay were signalled against the background of the Treasury's renewed determination to squeeze the PSBR and overall levels of public spending over the next few years. Sources said yesterday that at £50 billion the PSBR was set to "go over the cliff".

In the medium to long term, prime targets include the basic state pension. Michael Portillo, the Treasury chief secretary, who is conducting a fundamental review of the existing £260 billion commitments, is understood to believe that the pensions bill should be scaled back drastically. He and Peter Lilley, the social security secretary, are examining the scope for giving people incentives to opt out of the state scheme and rely on private or occupational provisions. Meanwhile, Mr Lamont has set the scene for painful spending cuts this autumn. He has made it clear that tough limits set in the Autumn Statement may need to be lowered further.



Portillo: reviewing pensions commitments

Help with higher fuel bills may cost government £1bn

BY JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE government's pledge to give extra cash to those on income-related benefits to compensate for imposing VAT on fuel bills could prove very costly.

If ministers decided to pay the added costs in full it would add up to £1 billion a year to government spending. If the seven million pensioners who are not on income support were also helped out, the bill would be nearer £2 billion.

As the decision to add VAT at 8 per cent next year and then 17.5 per cent the following year will only raise £3 billion, the government will balk at any moves towards full compensation.

In the Commons yesterday the prime minister and Peter Lilley, the social security secretary, made it clear that the extra help would be confined to the 5.5 million people on income support, the 450,000 on family credit and four million on housing benefit.

There is already pressure from Tory backbenchers to give some help to those on low incomes who do not qualify for income support, particularly the very elderly.

Social security sources indicated yesterday that no firm plans had been made as to how benefit claimants will be compensated, apart from ensuring that some extra money reaches them by April next year.

After yesterday's confusion Mr Lilley will have to steer a careful line between appeasing potential Conservative rebels and ensuring that spending does not run out of control. Yesterday he merely said: "I am saying that they will get extra, over and above the automatic protection they get through the retail price index, if they are on means-tested income-related benefits."

Mr Lilley will at the very least have to compensate in advance for the increases in the retail price index caused by the higher heating bill.

Labour estimated yesterday that the effects of VAT on fuel at 8 per cent would only increase the RPI by 0.3 per cent. This would add about £50 million to the £15 billion spent on income related benefits. Once the VAT rate jumped to 17.5 per cent this would increase the RPI to 0.8 per cent, adding about £120 million.

The government was careful not to raise hopes much higher than this conservative option. The prime minister announced in the Commons that additional help would also be directed through cold weather payments which are now given to special groups on income support: the elderly and infirm, the under-fives and the disabled. The £6 weekly payments are triggered by cold weather which is measured by the Meteorological Offices.

Extra help could also be made available by raising the income support premiums for pensioners. At present those aged between 60 and 74 get an additional £16.70 if single and £25.35 if married; those up to 79 get £18.65 and £28 respectively; while those over 80 get £22.75 and £32.55.

Ministers paved the way for a limited rescue package for the poor by making much of the fact that benefit claimants who now get a 20 per cent rebate for the community charge would not have this clawed back next year. This amounts to £1.60 for a single person and £2.80 a week for a couple.

Officials also pointed out that benefit claimants and pensioners will have their benefits uprated by 3.7 per cent from next month — based on last September's figures — which is higher than the current rate of inflation.

They also suggested that grants and loans to help with heating could come from the discretionary social fund. Ministers announced yesterday that the fund, which provides grants and interest-free loans to those on income support, would be increased by nearly 15 per cent to £346 million in 1993-4.

Some £95 million will be allocated in grants, £250 million in loans and £1 million will be a contingency reserve.

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AROUND THE LOBBY

Mayhew defends soldiers

Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland secretary, yesterday hit back at American politicians who criticised British policy in Ulster.

Responding to allegations of human rights abuses by the security forces, he said: "Human rights are indeed abused in Northern Ireland — abused on purpose and with authority by terrorists pursuing their evil and fruitless campaigns at the behest of their leaders.

"I sometimes think if a national of a foreign country were to become their victim — which I would wish on no one at all — we would hear more about this from overseas commentators and rather less unspecific calumny of brave men and women in the police and the army who strive to prevent it by every means in their power within the law."

Euro setback for Kinnock

Glenys Kinnock has suffered a setback in her attempt to become a Euro MP. John Smith, the former Vale of Glamorgan MP, has beaten Mrs Kinnock to become the Rhondda Labour party's candidate for the South East Wales Euro seat. He now has two nominations while the former Labour leader's wife has one.

Meanwhile, Tony Newton, Leader of the Commons, denied Labour allegations that the Home Office intends to set the boundaries for Britain's six new Euro-constituencies.

Seat choice

The Tory candidate for the Newbury by-election will be selected tonight, a week earlier than originally planned. John Maples, a former minister, is on the short list.

In Parliament

Commons (9.30): Debate on tourism.

Sunday trading revolt grows

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY

THREATS of Tory rebellion grew yesterday over government plans to scrap Sunday trading laws. A former minister was among senior Conservatives who warned the government that it risked losing the initiative in trying to end confusion over shop opening hours.

MPs pressed Kenneth Clarke, the home secretary, to speed up his plans to introduce legislation to clarify the law. A complex government bill, allowing MPs a free vote on three options for Sunday trading, was due to come before the Commons before the summer but the government now concedes that there is almost no chance of that happening. Mr Clarke was told yesterday to move more swiftly, after a private member's bill to restrict Sunday trading, which is sponsored by the Keep Sunday Special Campaign but vigorously opposed by the government, passed its committee stage in the House of Commons.

Dame Angela Rumbold, deputy chairman of the Conservative party, and a former Home Office minister, who helped to draft previous legislation aimed at clearing up shopping laws, told Mr Clarke yesterday: "It is high time the government took some action. The government is being pushed into coming forward with its own proposals. It should be done before the summer, not left until the autumn when a head of steam will have built up."

The bill, introduced by Ray Powell, Labour MP for Ogmore, originally prevented shops of more than 1,500 square feet from opening on Sunday but has been modified to allow larger shops, DIY stores and garden centres to open. The amendments, together with a commitment to pay double-time premiums, are designed to attract support from MPs worried that total deregulation, as favoured by Mr Clarke, would play into the hands of supermarkets.

Although Dame Angela described Mr Powell's bill as "muddled and incapable of becoming law", it received overwhelming cross-party support in committee and the Keep Sunday Special Campaign claims the support of up to 50 Tory MPs.

PARLIAMENT NEXT WEEK

The main business in the Commons is expected to be:
Monday: Conclusion of debate on the Budget.
Tuesday: Agriculture bill, second reading.
Wednesday and Thursday: European communities (amendment) bill, committee, 17th and 18th days.
Friday: Private members' bills.

The main business in the Lords is expected to be:
Monday: Housing and urban development bill, committee.
Tuesday: Education bill, second reading.
Wednesday: Debates on inner cities and on preventing nuclear arms proliferation.
Thursday: Trade union reform and employment rights bill, committee continued.

Budget debate: Labour attacks jobs package

Lamont's £230m deal 'no help' for the unemployed

BY JONATHAN PRYNN

THE Chancellor's £230 million package of employment and training measures contributed "next to nothing" to the fight against unemployment, Labour claimed yesterday on the third day of Commons debate on the Budget.

Frank Dobson, Labour's employment spokesman, said the help for 100,000 unemployed people promised by the Chancellor in his speech on Tuesday meant that "out of every 30 people out of work, 29 will get not a shred of help out of this Budget."

The high level of unemployment in Britain was the worst betrayal from a government that had consistently broken its promises to the British public. "People hoped for a Britain at work. The Budget betrayed their hopes," he told the Commons.

His comments came a few hours after the announcement of the first fall in seasonally adjusted unemployment since April 1990. Mr Dobson said he welcomed the 22,000 fall in the jobless total "without reservation" but feared that the figures for February would prove a freak. Even in the absence of any "statistical fiddles" by the employment department, it would take 11 years before the country returned to full employment at the current rate of decline, he added.

Opening the debate, Gillian Shephard, the employment secretary, said the welcome decline in the number of jobless made it "a good week for Britain", which had seen the release of a succession of encouraging economic statistics and "a first class Budget" from the Chancellor.

The February unemployment figures provided "some reasons for optimism", she said, but she warned MPs against placing more weight on one month's figures than they could bear.

Nevertheless, the number of unemployed people placed into new jobs by the employment service was up on last year and the number of people becoming newly unemployed and joining the register was down, she added.

Most people out of work were finding jobs very quickly she said, pointing out that 400,000 had left the dole queues in February, when 160,000 job vacancies had been notified to JobCentres. The range of help from the government was "considerable" Mrs Shephard said, and was supplied by an employment service of 50,000 staff wielding a budget of nearly £1 billion.

The £230 million package of measures announced by the Chancellor on Tuesday would give people the help they needed to return to work, Mrs Shephard said. The measures include 10,000 new places under the business start-up scheme; an educational allowance to help 30,000 jobless to study without losing their benefit; schemes to allow 60,000 long-term unemployed people to do community work; proposals to subsidise employers who recruit people out of work for more than two years; and a new £25 million fund for Training and Enterprise Councils.

The government had "listened and responded" to the wishes of the unemployed in designing the proposals announced by the government in its Budget for jobs, Mrs Shephard told the Commons.

But Mr Dobson said the secretary of state had failed to deliver and criticised the limited usefulness and the Budget day timing of the announcements from "a Chancellor in trouble".

In a lengthy analysis of the social consequences of mass unemployment, Mr Dobson said: "The situation is so desparate that anything seems better than nothing, even when what the government is proposing is next to nothing."

In 14 years of government, the Conservatives had failed to reduce the level of unemployment below that it had inherited in 1979. "What we recognise on this side of the House is how painful, harmful and hurtful it is to be out of work," he said, dimissing Tory hecklers as "witless loons". Long-term unemployment contributed to ill-health and premature death and was "the greatest threat to our democracy," he said.

Mrs Shephard accused Labour of longing to talk Britain down when the government was trying to "bring hope and confidence". Some things were down — inflation, interest rates, unemployment and the "down and out" Labour party. Referring to Labour's "prawn cocktail" offensive in the City before the election, she asked how many more prawns would have to be sacrificed to put right the damage done to Labour's image in the Square Mile by the words of her shadow.

Diary, page 18
Leading article, page 19
Beware of blips, page 27

Treaty faces Lords hurdles

BY SHEILA GUNN
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A HARD core of more than 50 Conservative, Labour and independent peers are to lead the campaign in the Lords against the Maastricht treaty bill this summer. The cross-party alliance, which is attracting new peers almost daily, will focus on winning support for a referendum amendment.

So far the Euro-sceptic peers have drafted 460 amendments as part of their strategy to frustrate the ratification process. Many more are expected before the bill reaches the Lords in late May or early June.

Baroness Chalker, the Foreign Office minister who will pilot the bill through the Lords, will work to block any amendments as that would force fresh debates in the Commons and possible ping-ponging of amendments between the two Houses.

Peers in the anti-Maastricht alliance are sounding out others who are prepared to support wrecking amendments to the bill, but they are pinning their hopes on a referendum amendment.

Baroness Thatcher is understood to have indicated that she will stay aloof from the day-to-day manoeuvres and reserve her contribution for a series of speeches on key amendments.

Lord Tebbit, the former Tory party chairman, is emerging as the key figure among the Tory sceptics, aided by Lord Harmar-Nicholls and Lord Pearson. Lord Bruce of Donington, Lord Stoddart of Swindon, Lord Jay and Lord Dormand are Labour's leading anti-Maastricht peers. On the independent benches, Lord Tonypandy, Lord Moran and Lord Monson appear to be the prime movers.

Lord Stoddart said yesterday: "There is still a chance that the Commons could very well pass a referendum amendment, which would be the best possible thing. If not, the Lords will certainly try it."

Although the upper House is regarded as more pro-European than the Commons, the relaxed procedures give the sceptics almost unlimited scope for delaying the legislation. Unlike the Commons, there is no Speaker and no selection of amendments. The front benches may agree to group amendments to speed through debate, but any individual peer can insist on a separate debate on each amendment.

Against that is the peers' reluctance to sit late at night. One senior Labour peer said yesterday: "Their lordships' inertia counters their procedural advantage."

The government's business managers are damping down speculation that peers will be called on to sit throughout August, as with the 1972 bill taking Britain into the Community. Instead, the Lords is expected to return in September, depending on the rate of progress.

Throughout June and July Lord Hesketh, the government's chief whip in the Lords, must compete for his peers' attendance with the attractions of Royal Ascot, royal garden parties and the like. But his aim is to complete the second reading debate and most of the detailed committee scrutiny before the summer recess.

Tory whips are also trying to find out the views of rarely-seen Tory peers, the so-called backwoodsmen, before deciding whether to call them in during the summer months.



Taking the field: Lynda Chalker, who is to shepherd the bill through the Lords

Grey Power spots the wrinkle in Chancellor's argument

BY PAUL BARKER

The battle over the VAT charge on domestic fuel and power bills has put Grey Power high on the agenda of British politics. The reason is simple: ten million old-age pensioners have votes. Unlike, for example, single mothers or unemployed young men on inner-city housing estates, pensioners have a strong tendency to exercise their vote. As the government has been vigorously reminded, there is an inexorable increase in the proportion of pensioners in the population, and in the electorate.

Grey Power is already a strong factor in American politics. This week, as the prime minister and Peter Lilley, the social security secretary, tried to explain away the impact of VAT changes on pensioners, you saw the arrival of Grey Power in full force. MPs know a powerful lobby when they see one. Remember that 70-year-olds cast their first vote in 1945, at the inauguration of the classic welfare state. They learnt, at an impressionable age, the power of the ballot. They are not about to forget it.

It was a Tory MP, David Shaw, who asked Frank Field, chairman of the Commons select committee on social security, to look into the effect of the change — and especially on pensioners. Mr Field first made his name as director of the Child Poverty Action Group. He was a powerful campaigner for child benefit. It is now easier to drum up sympathy for the old than for the young. Symbolically, the fun 'n' sun youngsters of *Eldorado* are axed from the television schedules. The new folk hero is Victor Meldrew, with one foot in the grave.

The government has been counter-punching against the accusation that the fuel rise will hit the old and the poor. These are not completely separate groups: 16 per cent of pensioners are on income support, and these are the people Mr Lilley yesterday pledged extra help for. For the rest, the government argues that state benefits — everything from old-age pensions through income support to child benefit — are uprated every April in line with the retail price index (RPI). Fuel costs are included in the calculation. So, all pensioners would be properly shielded.

Indeed, the argument from social security ministers goes, pensioners and others have been doing quite well recently, because of how the system works. A bucket is dipped into the cost of living every September. In November, based on


Field: looking at the impact of changes

that reading of the RPI, benefit upratings are announced for the following April. If inflation is falling, as it has been, there is an inbuilt bonus. On April 1 this year pensions will go up from £54.15 to £56.10 a week for a single person (from £86.70 to £89.80 for a couple). This is a rise of 3.6 per cent. Inflation is currently under 2 per cent.

All this makes the government sound like Santa Claus. Even in Victor Meldrew's front room there should be happiness and Dickensian merry-making, or, at least, a quick snifter of ginger wine. But the bifocals of Grey Power have been peering at the small print. Much of the fall in the RPI is due to the cut in interest rates. Mortgage costs are included in the index. This is less good news for pensioners. Most of them have paid off their mortgages. Their personal RPI has fallen by nothing like so much. So postpone that snifter.

The fuel increase will also ratchet up differentially. According to Help the Aged, perisioners spend about 12 per cent of their income on fuel, whereas the average household spends only 5 per cent. And this time, of course, the uprating system will work in reverse. Pensioners will pay more for fuel in the winter of 1994-5, without getting any extra state benefit.

The first bite of VAT will be imposed from April 1994. But the uprating, based on the September 1994 index, will not arrive at sub-post offices until April 1995. At which point, the VAT man takes his second bite. Put the ginger wine back in the cupboard for good.

But we'll see. The Grey Power battle has only just commenced. Extra help for 16 per cent of pensioners is not enough to placate them. A dozen years ago, in the first flurry of Thatcherite radicalism, pensioners suffered a heavy defeat. The last Labour government had introduced a double criterion. Pensions went up in line with earnings or prices, whichever was the higher. In 1980, Mrs Thatcher coupled them to prices only. Earnings have steadily risen faster than inflation. Pensioners would now be about £20 a week better off under the Labour system.

No one expects those glory days to return. But don't be surprised if, in its next Budget, the government gives a one-off rise to *all* the old-age pensioners, to balance out the fuel cost. Grey Power will have won an important skirmish.

Lobby groups count their losses

BY JONATHAN PRYNN

INTEREST groups that lost out in the Budget are preparing to redouble their efforts in an attempt to overturn proposals announced by the Chancellor on Tuesday.

The most shell-shocked reaction this week came from the charities lobby, which calculates that the introduction of VAT on fuel and power and the reduction in the rate of tax relief on dividend income will cost it almost £80 million a year. The Wellcome Trust alone is expected to lose up to £10 million annually.

Helen Donoghue, spokesman for the Charities Tax Reform Group, described the announcements as "well nigh unbelievable", and all the more difficult to swallow because the government had appeared to accept the charity lobby's case during pre-Budget representations.

The organisation had been flooded with calls from charities that were already financially stretched as a result of the government's community care programme, she said. An early day motion calling for VAT rebates for charities has already attracted more than 100 signatures, and is expected to win more supporters among MPs.

The Automobile Association complained that Britain's 23 million motorists, who face sharply higher petrol costs and road tax, had been picked on as "an easy source of revenue". The driving organisation calculates that the average driver will pay an extra £60 a year.

The car lobby has been bracing itself for an attack from the Treasury since the Autumn Statement when the Chancellor gave up £750 million on revenue by abolishing car tax. But for every loser, another lobby group has been counting its winnings. In Scotland, the Chancellor's decision to freeze excise duty on his favourite tipple was toasted as "a good first step" after 20 years of campaigning from one of the best organised and connected commercial lobby groups in Britain.

Like the whisky industry, the Lloyd's insurance market had the important lobbying card of massive foreign earnings to play in its representations to the Treasury. Its disadvantage was its politically sensitive associations with the rich and famous, including about 60 Tory MPs. However, concerted efforts over the past year to improve its image were rewarded with important concessions on its tax arrangements.

Reaction from another Budget gainer, the horse-racing lobby, was more difficult to assess yesterday, as representatives of the industry repaired to Cheltenham to celebrate their Treasury winnings.

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Struggling Socialists deliver defiant message to Tehran hardliners as polls near

Rushdie secures French support

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN PARIS

■ Jack Lang, the long-serving Mitterrand lieutenant, is risking Iranian retaliation in giving his blessing to the author

IN AN exploit that mixed school outing with James Bond film, Jack Lang, the French culture minister, yesterday led a platoon of top intellectuals on a mystery bus trip that ended with the Mitterrand administration according its official blessing to Salman Rushdie.

M Lang's action, three days before an election which will end his decade as M Mitterrand's most devoted minister, broke with France's reluctance since the Iranian *fatwa* to allow Mr Rushdie to visit Paris despite sympathy for his plight. "*Vous êtes ici chez vous.*" M Lang told the writer before the gathering of writers. "I hope international pressure will become strong enough so this odious edict will one day be lifted."

President Mitterrand had overruled opposition from his own security services to Mr Rushdie's presence in France. France has been a prime target of terrorist acts believed to have been inspired by Tehran. After *The Satanic Verses* was condemned, Paris withdrew its ambassador but sent him back after three weeks.

"This is truly a great moment," said Mr Rushdie, flanked by Mr Lang and Bernard Henry-Lévi, the administration's favourite philosopher. First Britain then America had begun to be more active in his support. "Now this last and most important bloc — France — has come into play."

The meeting, held in a small room high at the summit of the Grande Arche de la Défense, one of the architectural monuments of the Socialist era, followed a mysterious invitation to distinguished intellectuals, including Françoise Giroud, Edgar Morin, Jean d'Ormesson, Elie Wiesel and Philippe Sollers, to turn up at M Lang's ministry for lunch. Then we were driven off in a yellow bus through Paris to an unnamed destination. Some of us wondered if we were being kidnapped in a round-up of the intelligentsia ahead of the return of a right-wing government. Mr Rushdie was greeted not just by M Lang, but also by the two rival conservative applicants for his job: Jacques Toubon, a Gaullist and deputy mayor of Paris and Alain Carignon, the mayor of Grenoble.

In something of a breach of the government's fierce defence of the French language, Mr Rushdie spoke only English with no translation, and his French hosts spoke only French. This may have accounted for the silence of many intellectuals in the long dialogue which followed.

French right turn, page 17
Leading article, page 19



Appeal for votes: Jean-Marie Le Pen, the president of the far-right National Front, acknowledges the enthusiastic applause of supporters during an election campaign meeting in Paris

Wayward mayors give Nice the slip

BY CHARLES BREMNER

For the people of Nice, losing one mayor was an embarrassment. Losing a second may well be deemed carelessness.

Three years ago Jacques Médecin, the Godfather-like municipal boss, absconded to Uruguay with much of the city's funds in his bank account. Now his successor, Honoré Bailet, has not been seen for nearly a month.

M Bailet, 73, who is also a senator for the RPR, the Gaullist party, was last heard of on holiday in Tunisia. He was there on February 24 when his stepson was charged in Nice with murdering the owner of le Bistro des Artistes, a local nightspot, and with multiple robberies. That news came as a final straw for mutinous councillors who are unhappy over the 11 municipal fathers and a member of parliament who have recently been charged with corruption.

M Bailet sent a message from Tunisia, or possibly Corsica, which read: "My municipal mission comes first. I am staying [as mayor]." He had been expected to return to present his budget on Wednesday. The alarm was raised when he failed to appear.

Some local wags insist that M Bailet's absence is little different from his presence because he has cast a pale shadow in the colourful world of Nice politics since he took over from M Médecin. Crime is soaring. There were 11 bomb attacks in six weeks earlier this year, apparently part of a power struggle between rival gangsters. M Bailet's failure to run a tight ship has caused many Niçois to long for the days of "Uncle Jacques" Médecin. "Jacques had his failings," one café owner said last weekend, "but he put up with no nonsense."

Given the deluge of other municipal scandals, the mayoral absence is only a marginal embarrassment for the Gaullists in the local parliamentary election campaign. Among the top local candidates are feuding conservatives and Jean-Marie Le Pen, of the National Front. According to the locals, the presence of a record number of candidates this year reflects not so much a new interest in politics as the attraction of the immunity from prosecution that goes with a seat in the National Assembly.

FRENCH + ELECTIONS

Giscard puts Bonn high on agenda

FROM REUTER IN PARIS

VALERY Giscard d'Estaing, the French conservative leader, said yesterday that a centre-right government, if one is elected this month, would send officials to Germany to try to improve relations.

"We will immediately establish a dialogue that is much closer, much more intimate, with our German partners," M Giscard told France Inter radio. "The first visit will be a visit to our German partners, a working visit," the former president, now leader of the centrist Union for French Democracy (UDF), said. The centre-right opposition is expected to defeat the ruling Socialists in the country's two-round general election which starts on Sunday. The second round takes place a week later.

Some maverick right-wing politicians, frustrated by high interest rates which they blame on Germany, favour pulling the franc out of the European monetary system or devaluing it to clear the way for lower French rates. Mainstream conservatives believe that the franc should remain in the currency grid. There has been speculation that a conservative government would quickly signal close co-operation with Bonn and the German central bank.

Earlier this week, Jacques Chirac, leader of the UDF's coalition partner, the Rally for the Republic, said that Paris should make every effort to strengthen its co-operation with Bonn within the EMS.

Judges deny Scalfaro link to corruption

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

AN ITALIAN government decree that would have allowed companies under investigation to resume work on public contracts was defeated in parliament yesterday. At the same time, magistrates denied a report that President Scalfaro was named in the Milan corruption enquiry.

Renegade Christian Democrat MPs joined the opposition in the Chamber of Deputies to reject the decree by 196 votes to 192 with four abstentions on the ground that the legislation was unconstitutional. Deputies burst into applause.

The chamber also voted to lift the parliamentary immunity of Francesco de Lorenzo, the former health minister, who resigned after being placed under investigation for electoral irregularities.

In Rome, magistrates yesterday ordered the arrest of Giuseppe Ciarrapico, the owner of the Roma soccer club who earned a fortune and the nickname "the king of bubbles" by selling mineral water.

Mauro Leone, son of the former Italian president, Giovanni Leone, who himself resigned in the wake of a corruption scandal, was also ordered to be arrested. Mauro Leone was taken to the Regina Coeli prison in Rome.

Both are charged with belonging to a criminal organisation and fraud in connection with the management of the Safim Leasing holding company. Signor Ciarrapico is regarded as a protégé of Giulio Andreotti, the former prime minister. Francesco Merloni, the public works minister, had said the decree on public works contracts was necessary to safeguard employment, including jobs for 30,000 workers employed by the state-run motorway building corporation.

In Milan, Francesco Saverio Borelli, the public prosecutor, denied a report in *L'Europeo* magazine claiming that two politicians questioned in the corruption scandal had testified that they had made contributions in 1984 to the future President Scalfaro during his campaign for the European elections.

"There is no reference, direct or indirect, in the depositions of *tangentopoli* (bribe city), to the current head of state, Oscar Luigi Scalfaro," Judge Borelli said. "The *L'Europeo* story is unfounded," he added.

President Scalfaro has become increasingly unpopular within the old guard of his party since he declined to sign the government decree that effectively would have ended prison terms for the corrupt.

This week Signor Andreotti attacked the head of state in an interview, also with *L'Europeo*. "It is strange that only a year ago Scalfaro, as Speaker, was one of the more strenuous defenders of parliament. I find it hard to see him as a scourge of the situation," Signor Andreotti said.

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France asks UN to revive no-fly zone over Bosnia

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK AND TIM JUDAH IN BELGRADE

■ **Fears are growing that France will act independently of the UN to support the stand taken by Lt Gen Morillon in Srbrenica**

FRANCE asked the United Nations Security Council yesterday to revive plans to enforce the no-fly zone over Bosnia-Herzegovina, which could put British troops in danger of reprisals by Bosnian Serb forces.

Diplomats said a resolution enforcing the five-month ban on military flights could be adopted on Monday in reaction to the bombing by Serb planes last weekend of Muslim towns in eastern Bosnia.

In New York, Alija Izetbegovic, the president of the Muslim-led Bosnian government, unexpectedly left peace talks yesterday in protest against sharp increase in Serb attacks on Sarajevo.

After a round of talks with Lord Owen and Cyrus Vance in the morning, President Izetbegovic returned to his hotel complaining about the Serb offensive. But UN officials said he agreed to continue talks in his hotel room. Officials said the mediators expected to work through the weekend to secure President Izetbegovic's signature on the proposed map dividing Bosnia into ten semi-autonomous provinces.

In Bosnia yesterday United Nations peacekeepers attempted to halt a Serb offensive on the Muslim town of Srbrenica, where 60,000 starving civilians are trapped.

General Lars-Erik Wahlgren, commander of the UN Protection Force in former Yugoslavia, flew to Sarajevo to tackle Bosnian Serb military leaders at their headquarters outside the city. He arrived as hundreds of shells pounded the Bosnian capital in one of the heaviest artillery bombardments of the 11-month civil war. At least 38 people were wounded.

Last night, it was reported that the French air force may become directly involved in evacuating wounded from Srbrenica because of the presence of Lieutenant General Philippe Morillon, the UN commander for Bosnia. Diplomatic sources said that French aircraft or helicopters might help to airlift the injured out of the Muslim town if Serb forces continued to prevent aid convoys entering the town. Officials with the UN peacekeeping operation reacted with horror, fearing that the peace process could be put in jeopardy if France persisted with the plan, which they said was being discussed "privately" at UN headquarters in New York.

At the same time Sadako Ogata, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, appealed to world leaders to use "all possible means" to help Srbrenica, including helicopter shuttles.

A week ago Lt Gen Morillon vowed to the people of Srbrenica that he would not leave the town until the besieging Serbs allowed aid in. Yesterday the UN in Belgrade refused to release the text of an appeal he sent by radio which may have been an appeal to France to become directly involved.

Speaking on Radio Monte Carlo Roland Dumas, the French foreign minister, said: "France, which is following developments in Yugoslavia very closely, is ready to help him [Morillon] by whatever means he suggests. I think in the coming hours measures will be taken to help him in his duty."

Although Lt Gen Morillon is in Srbrenica under UN auspices, French honour is at stake, especially as Paris has given him its total support. United Nations officials fear that if any country becomes involved while not under the UN flag, the whole peacekeeping mission will collapse.

The scale of yesterday's fighting was disclosed by UN aid officials across the Serbian border in Mali Zvornik after UN peacekeepers were forced last night to abandon a fresh attempt to send a food and medical convoy to Srbrenica.

According to UN military observers, Serb forces are steadily advancing on Srbrenica and, while the town itself has not been badly shelled in the past few days, surrounding villages are thought to have been practically annihilated. One diplomat said that the fall of Srbrenica was now "inevitable".



Small armistice: a boy gathers toy guns yesterday in Dubrave, north of Sarajevo. The real war continued nearby

Opposition grows to rule by decree

FROM ANATOL LIEVEN IN MOSCOW

AS TALK of a possible introduction of presidential rule by Boris Yeltsin intensifies, Valeri Zorkin, chairman of the constitutional court, cut short a visit to the United States and returned to Moscow.

Mr Zorkin, though posing as an independent arbiter, has generally come out in favour of Mr Yeltsin's opponents. He would almost certainly oppose presidential rule, and could play a key part in undermining any attempt to make it stick.

Ruslan Khasbulatov, the Russian Speaker, arrived in Belorussia yesterday on a tour of former Soviet republics intended to reassure them about the opposition's intentions, and to boost his own prestige in the struggle with Mr Yeltsin.

Leaders of several former Soviet republics have expressed concern recently about the threat to Mr Yeltsin, and fear that if the conservative opposition comes to power, this could mean an attempt by Moscow to bring the rest of the Commonwealth of Independent States back under its control.

Not just the extreme Communist and nationalist forces in the Russian parliament, but the centrist ones as well, speak openly of the need to recreate a strong confederation under Russian leadership. Commonwealth governments' reactions to Wednesday's statement by Mr Yeltsin calling for strengthened Commonwealth institutions varied.

The president of Kazakhstan, Nursultan Nazarbayev, fully supported Mr Yeltsin's statement and said that CIS leaders should agree on a whole range of practical measures including a common currency and defence structure. Mr Nazarbayev supports a strong CIS because its disintegration could tear his ethnically-divided republic apart. But Ukrainian officials yesterday voiced renewed opposition to any confederal structures for the CIS, saying that these could lead to the restoration of the Soviet Union under another name.

Suspicion of Russia has been increased by the news this week from Abkhazia, where the Georgian government has accused the Russian armed forces of directly supporting the Abkhazi rebels, and has declared that Georgia is now in a state of conflict with Russia. Despite Russian claims to have halted the rebels, there were reports of heavy fighting continuing in the area yesterday.

Eduard Shevardnadze, the Georgian leader, offered again to fly to Moscow for talks with Mr Yeltsin, but there has been no response.

Trade row clouds Delors mission

FROM WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU IN WASHINGTON

JACQUES Delors, the president of the European Commission, was last night due to meet President Clinton in an encounter overshadowed by a transatlantic trade row over European access to lucrative US government contracts.

Officials on both sides were playing down the chances of the two leaders reaching an agreement to avert a ban that would affect European telecommunication and power companies, which is due to come into effect on Monday. It would almost certainly lead to European retaliation.

A spokesman for the European Commission said yesterday that the meeting had been scheduled before the trade conflict broke out and that "President Delors has not come as a trade negotiator". Instead, he would address issues where agreement was more likely, such as Bosnia-Herzegovina, Russia, and the need for co-ordinated international policies to bring about economic growth.

The decision to impose a ban on European telecommunications and power generation companies was announced more than a month ago. Hopes for a compromise were dashed last week when Mickey Kantor, the US trade representative, cancelled a meeting aimed to defuse the conflict in protest over the EC's refusal to scrap a provision in the utilities directive, which gives European utilities companies a 3 per cent price advantage for government procurement orders.

Sir Leon Brittan, the EC's external trade commissioner, has sharply criticised the cancellation of conciliation talks. The commission argues that discrimination under the Buy America Act against European companies was far greater than that implicit in the utilities directive.

While Mr Clinton is a proclaimed free-trader, the direction of his administration's trade policy is much less clear-cut. The toughness is underlined by frequent pronouncements from Mr Kantor. Last week, he threatened to walk away from talks on the North American Free Trade Agreement.

Polish MPs reject privatisation plan

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN WARSAW

THE Polish parliament rejected a mass privatisation plan yesterday, handing the coalition government of Hanna Suchocka, the prime minister, its most serious defeat.

The surprise outcome, throwing out nearly two years of groundwork, leaves Poland without a legal framework for transferring large state enterprises into private hands. The vote highlighted the weakness of Ms Suchocka's seven-party coalition, which does not have a majority in the 460-member Sejm. The pro-reform Liberals demanded an emergency meeting of coalition members to decide whether their shaky partnership, which has ruled Poland since July, still makes sense.

The legislation fell by 203 to 181, with nine deputies abstaining. Defections and absences by about 25 coalition deputies assured the government's defeat. "This is a serious sign that there is a possibility of turning back from the path of reform," Ms Suchocka said.

Disappointment was evident among Western business advisers who have been helping Poland organise privatisation. Michael Davis, resident partner in Warsaw of the British investment firm Nabarro Natanson, said that without mass privatisation, the government lacks staff and expertise to restructure quickly so many individual enterprises. Opinion polls showed the public generally behind mass privatisation, but deputies on the right and left criticised the plan on grounds that it would take 600 state companies worth $10 billion (£7 billion) out of government hands.

Instability spreads in Central Europe

Russian cold makes Bonn shiver

BY ROGER BOYES

The struggle for power and legitimacy in Russia has a direct bearing on the economic stability of Germany; an arc of crisis is now poised to sweep from Moscow through Warsaw to Berlin and into the heart of the European Community.

The initial fear, in Central Europe at least, was that the unified Germany would embark on a modern version of the 1922 Treaty of Rapallo. Germany, seized by a popular passion for Mikhail Gorbachev, did little to discourage the idea that some kind of grand bargain was in the making. The Germans would supply the skills and capital to modernise the Soviet Union, while Soviet or Russian mineral resources would fuel the engine of German unity. The Bonn government naturally promised to help Central Europe too, though not in any way that could cause problems for Mr Gorbachev.

It has worked out quite differently. The Soviet Union has crumbled, Mr Gorbachev is a pensioner, and the German economy is showing signs of real strain. In trying to make a friend of Russia, Germany has become dangerously exposed to the vagaries of the internal political conflicts in Moscow.

More than half of Russia's £55 billion foreign debt is owed to German banks. As the Russian economy seems to be hurtling out of control, German financiers are becoming understandably nervous. If President Yeltsin were to fall when there was no coherent division of authority, there would at the very least be a global rush into the dollar and out of the mark.

Germany's, and thus Western Europe's, vulnerability to events in the former Soviet Union has been graphically illustrated by the gas quarrel between Russia and Ukraine. Since last month, Russia has been demanding near world prices — £59 per 1,000m³ — for gas deliveries to Ukraine and threatens to turn off the tap altogether unless 165 billion roubles of unpaid bills are settled by Kiev.

If Russia carries out its threat, Ukraine will have to hold back gas deliveries to the West in order to meet its own needs. About 90 per cent of Russia's gas supplies to Western Europe run through Ukrainian pipelines. A third of all Germany's domestic gas comes from Russia.

There are other critical areas for Germany. The fear that millions of Russian refugees will come knocking on Germany's door is ever present. Relations between Russia and Ukraine do little to foster confidence in Bonn.

Ukraine had offered to take in 400,000 ethnic Germans from Kazakhstan and other eastern republics, exiled as a result of Stalin's policy of forced removals. Bonn, imagining that these ethnic Germans would soon claim German citizenship, gave Ukraine about 20 million marks (£8 million) for resettlement on Ukrainian territory. But only 1,500 ethnic Germans have actually moved. Most prefer to keep alive their hopes of emigrating directly to Germany, given the tense relations between Kiev and Moscow. Almost any twist in the Kremlin power struggle carries some serious implication for Germany. Any militarisation of Russian politics, with the army choosing sides, will affect the process of withdrawing troops from Germany.

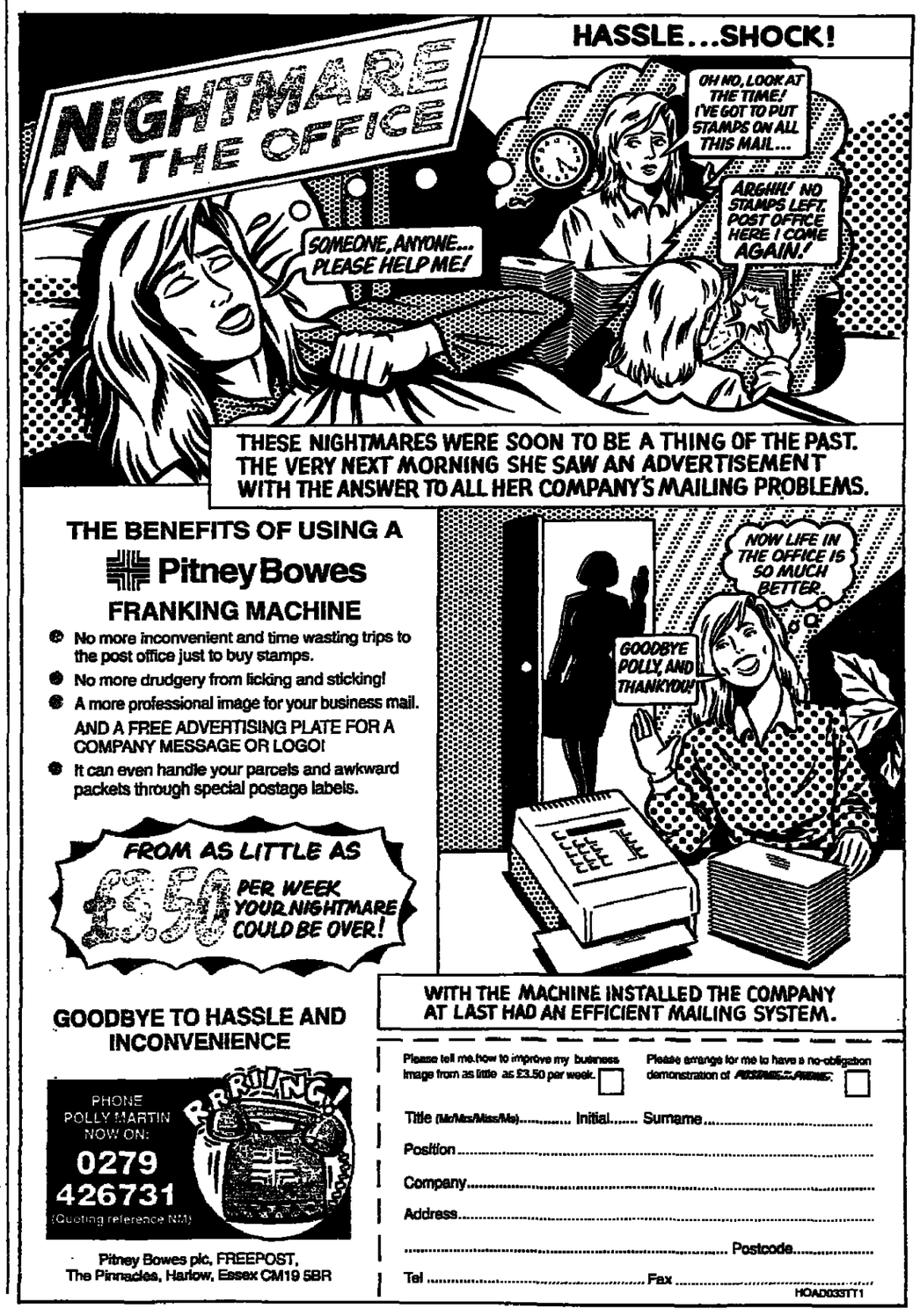


Partners in destiny: Helmut Kohl and Boris Yeltsin in sombre mood at the Kremlin

The question of housing the returning troops from Germany and the Baltic states has already become part of the political contest in Moscow, with the Congress of People's Deputies allocating some £20 million to an army building fund.

The Visegrad group — the Poles, Hungarians, Czechs and Slovaks — have been far more cautious about picking favourites in Moscow. Here has been no echo of the somewhat desperate endorsement by Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, of President Yeltsin last Monday: "Russia and Germany today enjoy relations which are free of tension, trusting and friendly. This is due in good measure to the Yeltsin achievements."

Central Europe is even more at risk than Germany from an emigration wave from Russia. Another turn towards authoritarian rule in Russia would disrupt the whole reform process among its Western neighbours. And the rise of conservatives in the Russian foreign policy machine is already making itself felt as the Central Europeans try to piece together a new *Ostpolitik*.



هكذا من الأصل

Firms put business before politics as Peking plays it tough



Deng: his open-door policy was welcomed

BY EVE-ANN PRENTICE, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

■ A furore is raging over Hong Kong. British companies fighting for a share in the Chinese boom hope for business as usual

THE American computer salesman was jubilant as he dined on hash browns and eggs sunny-side-up in the Beijing-Toronto hotel in Peking. He was sure he was on the brink of a mega-deal with the Chinese because they had taken his sample software and hardware to show the top man at a computer factory.

The American was back at his breakfast table two days later, prodding his hash browns disconsolately. The Chinese were more devious than he had thought, he said. They had decided against a deal. Even worse, he thought they had taken his computer to a copying centre where they had tried to replicate the technology. He had been tipped off by a Swiss computer salesman who lived in Peking for six months of the year.

The incident happened at a time when the West was euphoric about Deng Xiaoping's open door policy in the mid-1980s. By the end of that decade, Western firms had learnt they had to be more subtle in dealing with China. The Tiananmen Square killing of students in 1989 removed any residual naivety about the perceived Westernisation of the Chinese government.

Since 1991, China has been enjoying an economic boom, and British companies have been queuing up with competitors from other Western nations to try to reap the benefit of business opportunities ranging from multi-billion dollar infrastructure projects to oil prospecting.

The declaration by Li Lanqing, China's trade minister, that Britain's economic relations with China would suffer if it went ahead with Chris Patten's proposals for democratic reform in Hong Kong, was as unwelcome as it was unexpected. Britain and China are not close trade partners, with bilateral trade from January to September 1992 totalling just £1 billion compared with £16 billion between China and America.

Nonetheless, trade between Britain and China has been rising fast. British exports to the People's Republic were worth £430 million last year, an increase of 33.5 per cent over 1991, according to the trade and industry department in London. China exported £945 million worth of goods to Britain — including tea, textiles, fruit and vegetables and photographic apparatus — last year, up 34.9 per cent on the previous year.

Trade between Britain and China is only slightly lower than that between Britain and China's political alter ego, Taiwan. In 1992, British exports to the Taipei regime were worth £545 million, up 5 per cent on the previous year, while Taiwanese imports to Britain were worth £1.3 billion, up 9 per cent on 1991.

Recent British export successes in the mainland include a Chinese order for eight BAe 146 aircraft, worth £97 million; a £300 million order for Rolls-Royce aero-engines; and a GEC power station contract in Shajiao, also worth £300 million. Shell is involved in a feasibility study for a joint venture oil refinery at the port of Aotou, east of Shenzhen. The refinery would be one of the largest foreign joint ventures with China, with investment of about £4 billion.

British companies were yesterday trying to keep a discreet distance from the political furore in London and Peking. Cable & Wireless is involved in a couple of joint ventures with China, while 20 per cent of the company's Hong Kong Telecom shares are owned by China. "We enjoy very good relations with China," a spokesman said. "We are confident it will be business as usual with China in 1997."

China's record on implementing economic threats has been uneven. A dispute with France over the sale of Mirage jet fighters to Taiwan resulted in Paris being ordered this year to close its consulate in the southern city of Guangzhou, and French companies were excluded from the bidding for the city's new subway system.

Similar threats made against America after the sale of American jet fighters to Taipei last year proved hollow, with China subsequently agreeing to a number of new American purchases including wheat, jets, and a satellite.

Last night the British government said: "Trade and economic links between Britain and China are growing strongly. This co-operation is in the interests of both countries. We want to see it continue to develop."

Chinese warn UK of trade boycott over Patten reform

FROM CATHERINE SAMPSON IN PEKING

CHINA warned Britain last night that bilateral trade would suffer as a result of Chris Patten's decision to push ahead with democratic reforms in Hong Kong before the colony is handed back to Peking in 1997.

"If the governor sticks to his present manner of doing things, economic and trade relations will inevitably be affected," said Li Lanqing, the minister of foreign economic relations and trade.

John Major offered firm support to Mr Patten, saying in the Commons that the governor had acted "sensitively, resolutely and correctly". The prime minister said the government stood "four-square" behind Mr Patten.

Peking's remarks took threats of retaliation a step further. On Wednesday, another senior official had seemed to avoid making any such threat. Mr Li did not specify how trade would suffer, or by how much. Last year, British exports to China were worth about £700 million, according to figures in Peking. However, the department of trade in London put the sum at £430 million.

Mr Patten decided last Friday to abandon hopes of compromise talks with Peking and instead to put his democratic reform package on the agenda of Hong Kong's legislature. The package, if it becomes law, will mean that most of the seats in the colony's legislature will be democratically elected in 1995. On Wednesday, Peking said that when it takes over in 1997 it will disband the legislature and install one with fewer directly elected seats.

The vagueness of Mr Li's comments, in keeping with other official statements, seem to suggest that Peking is still unsure about what specific measures it should take, and how to discriminate between Britain and Mr Patten in their attacks. Having seen that many analysts in Hong Kong and Britain were saying that Peking's initial reaction was not as fierce as feared, China may even have decided to step up the pressure.

Certainly the flow of rhetoric did not cease yesterday. Two high-ranking military officers who are deputies to the ongoing parliamentary session in Peking expressed their horror at Mr Patten's decision. One, Major General Li Dengwen of the Chinese navy, said that he would never tolerate what Mr Patten had done. The governor's reform package was "an insult" to China.

It is rare for members of the military to speak out on Hong Kong, but because the parliamentary session has coincided with the rift between Mr Patten and Peking means that even more abuse is being piled on the governor than usual.

At parliamentary sessions it is usual for deputies to come out one after another and parrot the politically correct line on the issue of the day. This year the issue is Hong Kong.

At one discussion meeting attended by deputies yesterday, Zhou Nan, the chief of the Hong Kong branch of the Xinhua news agency, Peking's de facto embassy in the colony, came out with more patriotic rhetoric and vague threats. He said that the resumption of sovereignty over Hong Kong was "a sacred right of China which brooks no interference or sabotage". He said Chinese people would never again be ordered about by colonialists, adding: "Anyone who dreams of hindering this historical process will only eat their own bitter fruit in the end."

He said Mr Patten's reform package was a trick designed to create chaos and "set up barriers for China's resumption of sovereignty over Hong Kong under the guise of democracy, in an attempt to turn Hong Kong into a semi-independent political entity with a view to continuing, in another guise, Britain's colonial rule there after 1997".

Mr Zhou also criticised the Hong Kong administration's financial policy, saying that the colony's people were concerned that its financial reserves would be exhausted. Hong Kong government figures suggest there is little danger of the colony's reserves being seriously depleted before 1997. However, as part of its battle for the hearts and souls of Hong Kong residents, Peking has repeatedly accused the British authorities of mismanaging the colony.

Chinese tactics, page 18



Pedal power: a Chinese couple, driving a tiny two-seater pedal car, getting a mixture of wary and bemused looks from their fellow travellers riding along a cycle lane in Peking yesterday. Cyclists are not used to such vehicles encroaching on their part of the road

Governor hints that Communist threats jeopardise Gatt entry

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN HONG KONG

CHRIS Patten, the Hong Kong governor, warned China yesterday that a threat by Li Lanqing, the foreign trade minister, that his political reform proposals could affect Sino-British trade was a double-edged sword and could hurt China more.

Mr Patten was indirectly referring to China's application to rejoin the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and to its most favoured nation status in American trade, which he has said should be retained. "It's rather an important matter for China that trade does not become politicised," Mr Patten said. "That's why I will be arguing for free trade rather than for political considerations to enter trade when I travel to the United States later this year."

On continued personal attacks on him by China, Mr Patten said: "When you play the man rather than the ball, as football managers say, it is perhaps because you are not very well placed to conduct a rational argument, because you don't have very strong arguments on your side."

The British Trade Commission in Hong Kong yesterday released figures showing British exports to China are worth £430 million, while Chinese exports to Britain total more than £950 million. Any disruption in trade, then, could hurt China more. Chris Osborne, a spokesman for the commission, said there had not been any indication of decline in trade since Mr Patten submitted his proposals to the Hong Kong Legislative Council last October.

Jimmy McGregor, the Legislative Council member for the Hong Kong chamber of commerce, said: "We have come to a crossroads, and China will have to decide whether it wants to take over a thoroughly good going concern, one of the economic miracles of the world, or whether it wants to continue to bash the Hong Kong government and governor all the way down to 1997."

Meanwhile, Michael Sze, the government's secretary for constitutional affairs, said yesterday that March 31 was the "most convenient" date for Mr Patten's package to come before the council for debate.

Korea nuclear deadline extended

FROM REUTER IN VIENNA

NORTH Korea has been given until March 31 to yield to international demands to allow inspectors to check two military sites suspected of being nuclear waste plants, the International Atomic Energy Agency said yesterday.

The agency last month gave Pyongyang a March 25 deadline to meet its demands but was now proposing the new date, a spokesman said. "For practical reasons the first day on which we can have a formal meeting is the 31st."

North Korea, suspected in the West of having enough material to build at least one nuclear bomb, pulled out of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty last week, setting off a wave of alarm. Diplomats, in particular from the three so-called depository states, or guardians of the treaty — the United States, Britain and Russia — have sought to defuse tension in meetings with North Korean officials.

Hans Blix, the agency's director-general, was to meet his board of governors later to discuss Pyongyang's refusal to let observers check the sites at Yongbyon, 60 miles north of the capital. But the board, made up of 35 member states including America and China, is unlikely to refer the dispute to the UN Security Council after this session. "The board will set another meeting for the end of the month to see if North Korea is showing any further flexibility," the spokesman said.

The Vienna-based agency has no powers to force countries to let inspectors check nuclear sites, but as a last resort can call for action from the security council, which can impose punitive economic sanctions. North Korea is the first country to withdraw from the arms limitation treaty and the West will be determined to take a firm line to discourage other would-be nuclear powers from doing the same. Diplomats have said North Korea, one of the world's last hardline communist states, may have been taking a tough stance while its southern neighbour, South Korea, and America were conducting their annual Team Spirit military drills, which ended yesterday.

Pyongyang signed a non-nuclear pact with South Korea in 1991 and agreed last year to allow scheduled inspections by the agency, which made six visits. However, a row began when Pyongyang refused to allow inspectors into the Yongbyon complex, strongly believed by some Western experts to be sites used to store nuclear waste for reprocessing plutonium. Pyongyang insists they are conventional military sites and that the agency therefore has no right to inspect them.

Two held for blasts in Bombay

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN BOMBAY

TWO men were arrested yesterday for allegedly planting bombs in Bombay, where explosions a week ago killed at least 300 people. Suspicion concerning the attacks is focused increasingly on the Bombay underworld, which has links with Gulf countries.

Amarjit Singh Samra, the Bombay police commissioner, said last night that one of the men drove a jeep laden with explosives to a market place in the centre of the city. The other had planted a bomb in the crowded jewellery market.

A huge security operation has been mounted in Delhi and Madras following intelligence reports that both cities could be the targets of more attacks. America has advised its citizens to avoid Delhi in case of bombings.

The Indian government believes a foreign country or organisation is trying to scare off foreign investors to ensure that India does not become an economic power. Government officials have described the Bombay underworld as the hired gun in the operation. Pakistan has expressed outrage at suggestions by some Indian MPs that it might be involved.

The blast in Calcutta that demolished two blocks of flats and killed at least 60 people on Tuesday has been definitely linked to the city's underworld and was not a terrorist attack, according to police. It was still not clear whether the explosion was deliberate.

Brazilians turn to telling tales of sex and drugs

BY GABRIELLA GAMINI

BRAZIL'S latest corruption scandal and the alleged details of the extramarital affairs and cocaine habits of former power-brokers are profitable business for budding best-seller authors.

Fernando Collor de Mello, the impeached former president, dominates public attention and a series of books written by those accused with him of taking bribes is on its way to the shops. "It's going to be a flow of tit-for-tat accusations and each person involved is going to make sure that the other one falls too," said one local journalist.

One book is already selling thousands of copies. It is called *One Thousand Days of Solitude*, by Claudio Humberto Rosa e Silva, Senhor Collor's former spokesman who also faces corruption charges. Senhor Rosa claims he needs the cash now that he is out of a job, and therefore has to forget his loyalty to his former boss.

He describes Senhor Collor as a provincially minded, relentless womaniser with no scruples. He claims that $52 million (£36 million) left over from the election campaign fund and meant for public use was shared out by Senhor Collor and those loyal to him.

Senhor Rosa also claims that Senhor Collor's brother, Pedro, whose allegations spurred the investigation that led to the downfall of the former president, also wanted to set up a corruption network in their northern home province of Alagoas and stole money from the family's media empire to do it. He claims Pedro went on a shooting rampage in the offices of a Collor newspaper when he found out his brother had a secret affair with his wife Theresa. An office guard was seriously wounded.

After threatening several libel writs, Senhor Pedro Collor told *Jornal do Brazil* that his book would be published next month to shed more light on dealings with Fernando. To spice things up, he alleged that the former president became a cocaine addict as a teenager, and was increasingly dependent on the drug during his time in office. He also threatened to reveal extramarital affairs, sexual orgies and black magic, and accused his brother of frequently beating women.

Rosanne Collor, the former president's wife, will also not be spared. While she is charged with pocketing public funds to stock her wardrobe and hold parties, Pedro said he would reveal the former first lady's affairs with young government members.

Alceni Guerra, the former education minister, has also promised a book expected to implicate dozens of politicians allegedly involved with Senhor Collor. Brazilians have always been partial to *Dallas*-style television dramas. It is likely they will also follow this book saga avidly.



Collor de Mello: target for former spokesman

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Bloodshed in Gaza forces Israel to contemplate pullout

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

■ Talk of Israel abandoning some of the territory occupied in 1967 is receiving a cautious welcome from Palestinians

FOR THE first time since Israeli forces captured the Gaza Strip from Egypt in 1967, a significant number of Israeli political figures and a majority of the public have signalled their willingness to withdraw from the overcrowded, poverty-striken enclave.

After weeks of spiralling violence, in which many Palestinians have been killed by Israeli security forces and several Israeli civilians have been killed by Gazans, prominent Israeli leaders and opinion makers are now publicly endorsing a unilateral withdrawal from Gaza. The move has been received cautiously by the Palestinian leadership. However, Dr Haidar Abdel-Shafi, the head of the Palestinian delegation to the Middle East peace talks, said yesterday that he would accept an Israeli withdrawal from Gaza "first", as part of an overall settlement for the 1.8 million Palestinians living under occupation.

In the latest violence yesterday, one Palestinian was killed and 40 were injured in clashes with Israeli troops, the third consecutive day of heavy casualties in the Khan Yunis refugee camp.

Earlier this week, Yosi Sarid, the dovish environment minister, became the latest member of the Israeli cabinet to raise the prospect of a withdrawal from Gaza when he predicted that the strip would eventually become a Palestinian state ruled by the PLO.

"Israel is not interested in ruling Gaza, and Gaza will be given over as soon as possible, not in a unilateral way, but in the framework of an agreement," Mr Sarid told reporters after the weekly cabinet meeting. "In order to turn over Gaza within an agreement there has to be someone to take it. No element will take Gaza other than the Palestinian element."

Gaza was captured by Israeli forces in the 1967 Six-Day war and is regarded by right-wing Israelis as a non-negotiable part of Eretz Israel, the biblical land of Israel. However, following the deaths of six Israelis in the strip this year, fresh doubts have been raised about the viability of subsidising and protecting the 3,000-strong Jewish settler community, which is in permanent conflict with 800,000 Palestinians.

Although Yitzhak Rabin, the prime minister, is known to oppose the concept of a unilateral pull-out, at least four cabinet ministers have also signalled their support for immediate withdrawal.

According to a recent Gallup poll in the Hebrew daily *Maariv*, 33 per cent of the Israeli public also favours an immediate pull-out and 34 per cent want to withdraw from the area as part of a negotiated settlement. Only 23 per cent favoured keeping the territory.

The almost daily public discussion of the matter has raised concerns in the Palestinian community, which is aware that the underlying economic and social problems in Gaza, caused by high unemployment and a total lack of basic infrastructure and resources, cannot be resolved simply by a political change. The banned Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, was so worried about the future of Gaza that its leadership in Amman this week called for an emergency meeting of all the main Palestinian groups in order to avoid a "bloodbath" if Israel suddenly pulled out its forces.

Abdel Shafi, the most respected figure in the Gaza Strip, said yesterday that if Israel was considering a unilateral withdrawal it should give the Palestinian leadership time to prepare for a smooth transition of power, in particular to maintain law and order.

As a compromise, he added: "We are not negotiating Gaza alone, we are negotiating a resolution of the whole Palestinian issue ... However, I could envisage a withdrawal of Israeli forces from all the occupied territories, where Gaza would come first."

☐ *Cairo: Egyptian authorities* and militant Islamic followers of the blind Shaikh Omar Abdel-Rahman have engaged in an all-out war which many Arab commentators now warn threatens the stability of the whole region (Christopher Walker writes).

Yesterday the Islamic Group vowed to avenge Tuesday's killing by government forces in Assiut of Ahmed Zaki, a leader in the campaign against foreign tourism, and nine of his men. The threat has brought further panic to Egypt's foreign community, including the dwindling number of tourists. Many middle and upper-class Egyptians are talking openly for the first time of trying to move their money out of the country for fear of a possible Islamic revolution. Shaikh Omar yesterday denied being the Islamic Group's spiritual guide but condoned its attacks on police and tourists.



Train of death: plumes of smoke spiralling from a petrol tanker on a level crossing near Fort Lauderdale, Florida. The Silver Star passenger train collided with the tanker, killing its driver and five other motorists

Mandela fails to ring the changes on phone bill

FROM MICHAEL HAMLYN IN JOHANNESBURG

WITHOUT a telephone, it will be quite difficult for Winnie Mandela, the estranged wife of Nelson Mandela, president of the African National Congress, to make her political comeback and lead the anti-elitist forces of the liberation movement.

Perhaps that was in her husband's mind when he gave instructions to Telkom SA, the nearly-privatised telephone company (it only has one shareholder — the government) to cut her off.

The telephone bill at the mansion in Soweto she occupies, and which Mr Mandela briefly shared with her after he left jail and before he moved to Houghton, the leafy northern suburb of Johannesburg where he now lives, has continued to mount. Mr Mandela's lawyer, Ismail Ayob, wrote to the company last month asking that it be cut off, and further wondering why it had not been cut off as Mr Mandela asked when he left last August.

Telkom said they did not get Mr Mandela's August letter, and that they were holding him responsible for the bill, 19,000 rands (£4,200), plus the costs of a small switchboard and several instruments. They had sent men to disconnect them, but several large guards had denied them access.

Mr Mandela says he will not hold himself responsible for the account. Mrs Mandela has not yet applied for a telephone in her own name.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Australian accused of war crime

Adelaide: Australia's first Nazi war crimes trial opened more than three years after Ivan Polyukhovich, 76, an Adelaide pensioner, was first charged under controversial laws passed in 1988.

Mr Polyukhovich pleaded not guilty to charges of being knowingly involved in the murder of up to 850 Jews in 1942 in the Nazi-occupied Ukraine village of Serniki. He has also denied murdering a Jewish woman, known as "the miller's daughter", and two Jewish children. *(Reuter)*

Briton charged

Algiers: John Baggaley, a Reuter correspondent in Algeria, was detained for 24 hours and freed on bail to answer charges of spreading false information after an incorrect report that a minister had been assassinated. *(Reuter)*

Vendor riot

Lusaka: A police drive in the Zambian capital against street vendors turned into a riot and looting spree. Three people were injured, 33 arrested, and banks and offices shut. *(AP)*

Truce called

Nairobi: John Garang, the head of the main Christian rebel group in Sudan, declared a unilateral ceasefire in the ten-year civil war, saying he wanted to mark Ramadan by giving peace talks with the Muslim regime in Khartoum a chance. *(Reuter)*

Price of war

Beirut: Lebanon's infrastructure could be rebuilt over ten years at a cost of £9 billion, according to a plan drawn up by the government-supervised council for development and reconstruction. *(Reuter)*

Hijackers die

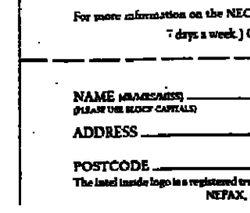
Addis Ababa: Police stormed an Ethiopian Airlines jet and killed two of the hijackers who had been holding the plane, with 17 passengers hostage, at Dire Dawa airport since last Friday, officials said. *(AFP)*

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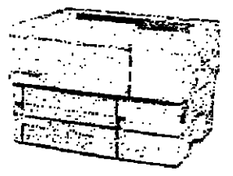
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هكذا من الأصل

Riches of the spirit

A hedonist author sees the light

Susan Howatch has been taken aback at the interest shown in her £1 million *donation to establish* a lectureship in theology and natural science at Cambridge University. "I was going to donate it anonymously, but the university persuaded me *that going public might* persuade others to come forward," she says.

Miss Howatch's books, such as *The Rich Are Different* and *Penmarric*, sold more than 20 million copies and made her a millionaire. She used to live in the same world of fast cars and casual relationships which she wrote about. Then, in 1983, she discovered religion.

Aged 52, she now lives in a modest flat two minutes' walk from Westminster Abbey. "My conversion to religion was no road to Damascus. I didn't go to church for many years. It was a very lonely business.

"I had been reading theology for about nine years and was very disillusioned with the failures in my personal life. I felt I had come to the end of my career. I was so interested in a hedonistic lifestyle, but it didn't mean anything any more.

"Religion enhanced my life. Good religion is about being yourself, realising your potential and serving others. I'm



Howatch: donation

happier now than I ever used to be."

Her desire to establish the lectureship stems from her belief that "religion is not dead, but complements scientific discovery. It's the trend for the future, the interplay between disciplines".

Whereas she once wrote for herself, Miss Howatch says she now writes for God. "I can't paint or cook or anything like that. I believe I was put on earth by God to write. I'm not saying I'm a Shakespeare or a Dostoyevsky, just trying to be the best possible Susan Howatch."

Having traded in material trappings for the spiritual life, Miss Howatch's preferred relaxation is church. "There's nothing more luxurious than nipping into Westminster Abbey for evensong."

Solitary in work, but still very social, Miss Howatch has rejected "vacuous relationships" for celibacy. "Once you get to a certain point you think 'I can't go on like this'. Celibacy is very empowering. It takes all of the pressure out of relationships."

In 1987, she began to write a series of "psycho-spiritual" novels rooted in the fictional cathedral town of Starbridge. She is working on the final novel in the sextet, to be published this year. "I'm sure I'll need bereavement counselling after leaving Starbridge behind. After all, we've been having a relationship for seven years."

KATE ALDERSON

Britain's moral guardian

THE VALERIE GROVE INTERVIEW



As the film censor, James Ferman sees more violence in a week than most of us experience in a lifetime. Yet still he finds himself appalled by the hatred for women he finds in the cinema



SIMON WALKER

Saving us from the nasties: James Ferman says "Men have always slugged it out, but I now take a strong line on sexual abuse of women"

Whatever we see on our screens, James Ferman has seen worse. He has total recall of every ghastly moment. He relates cuts he has made (the blood on the breasts, the climax of the rape, the prolonged torture) in his gentle voice, his narratives punctuated with the words, "It was quite horrendous", or, "It was absolutely appalling".

He is 62, and director of the British Board of Film Classification. A quiet American who read English at Cambridge where he met his wife while playing Benedick to her Beatrice and (oh, irony) wrote for *Varsity* when Michael Winner was editor. He has loved film ever since he was a boy in New York and learnt from his film director father, who had worked with the great D.W. Griffiths, the old-fashioned skills of splicing and trimming.

He came to the board in 1975 from television, where he had directed *Armchair Theatre* and *Emergency Ward 10*, innocent of violence and horror, and received a *shock to his moral consciousness*. He was shown a college-campus film in which a pretty co-ed was seen getting into the shower, "the camera enjoying her body", as he put it, "and suddenly you saw the distorted figure of a man through the glass *and a knife slashed across her* breasts and I leapt up out of my seat and screamed. And my fellow examiners, male and female, said 'sorry, we see these all the time — they're called slasher movies'. So I was introduced to the woman-in-jeopardy genre, very common in the 1970s.

"In my first full year, 1976, we saw 402 films and 58 included rape, and mostly rape as entertainment."

Every year before writing his annual report he takes a depressing look through all the violence cuts and is appalled. "Women are so lovely," he says. "How can anyone want to hurt women like that, as entertainment? The normal male impulse is surely to love women, but love is twisted into hate, and a caress into a punch or something worse. It's dreadful. I've never understood it. Men have always slugged it out in films, but I now take a very strong line on sexual abuse of women."

Since I first approached Mr Ferman to talk about screen violence, he has been to a pornography conference in Chicago where victims of sexual attacks told their stories. "A woman told us how she was walking home one night when she was jumped on by two men who raped her, tried to strangle her and left her for dead. 'I've got over all the physical damage,' she said, 'but I will never lose the psychological effect of knowing that there are men who hate women so much.'

"It was just heartbreaking," said Mr Ferman. "Sexual violence is what causes us the most grief."

His annual report defines its objections to "scenes contrived to induce the sexual excitation of male viewers through the terrorisation, torture or humiliation of naked or semi-naked woman . . . " It enumerates the incidence of rape, gang rape, women being bound, hit, whipped, knife threats to bare breasts, strangulation, urination on a murdered woman. And if anyone asserts that there is no correlation between what is seen on screen and what happens off it, his examiners clearly disagree because there is a section on "imitable techniques" — films showing how to break a neck, pick a car-lock, clap someone on the ears to perforate eardrums, which all have to be cut.

Are we mad? We are talking about criminal and life-threatening offences. Yet Mr Ferman and his board — who are filmically literate, not a collection of blimps hacking away at beautiful works of art — have to appease film makers who, god-like, see a threat to their integrity if such atrocities are cut or toned down.

His office in Soho Square, once shabby and run-down, is now plush and prosperous. By 1981 they were down to 278 films; then along came the videogram, as it was called, a Pandora's box which enriches the board while impoverishing the moral climate. Bringing cinema films into the home was a major cultural change, requiring re-regulation. They have done much: vetting video packages for gory pictures, fiddling with classifications, putting retailers on their guard. They have called forensic psychiatrists to advise which scenes — acceptable in the cinema when seen fleetingly once — become a turn-on for deviant and violent behaviour if re-run by dangerous obsessional characters at home.

And yet, how effectual can they be? A *Sunday Mirror* survey last week found that half the children of 16 and under now have TV sets in their bedrooms and their parents have no idea what, or how late, they watch, as they lie in bed videoing and replaying what they like. The 9pm watershed, vaunted by Alan Yentob as something parents should monitor, is an ineffectual joke. Older children bring "18" videos home where younger siblings can watch. The argument that only one in three households contains a child under 16 is a specious one: it is those households, as Ferman knows, which harbour the testosterone-crazed, unemployed young men, with few father-figures to influence them, and little to do but watch videos. "I would there were no age between 16 and three-and-twenty," Ferman quotes from *A Winter's Tale*. "For there is nothing in the between but getting wenches with child, wronging the ancientry, stealing, fighting."

But his board — "the most censorious in Europe" — must face the wrath of the film critics, whose reverence for filmic integrity overrides any considerations of responsibility. "*Man Bites Dog* [serial killer seen murdering, raping, breaking necks] won prizes at two film festivals, was well reviewed and Nigel Andrews of *The Financial Times* congratulated us for passing it uncut. *Reservoir Dogs* had a very good press. In France, *Man Bites Dog* got a 12 rating. And Britain on the whole does not want censorship: it wants what the rest of the world is seeing," Ferman says. But Keith Waterhouse is not the only commentator who wrote this week about never going to any of these films: "I would not want to swim in a sewer."

Ferman tells an interesting story about Stephen Spielberg. In order to give *Raiders of the Lost Ark* a PG rating in Britain, Ferman himself went to Hollywood and made 24 violence cuts (including the removal of a man's heart) having been told "you can't cut a Spielberg film". They also re-dubbed the sound so that it was "more John Wayne and less Kung Fu". Spielberg later conceded the film had lost nothing. And when the next Spielberg came in, there were no violence cuts needed: "Spielberg by then had a six-year-old son — and wanted to take him to the movies."

The favourite argument about classical Greek drama containing violence won't wash with Ferman. That violence is all off stage, and besides it isn't Greek drama that children are watching, but *Robin Hood Prince of Thieves*, with its rape of Maid Marian which, he now admits, they were wrong to allow and had to tone down for video.

Ferman would hate any child to see *Henry, Portrait of a Serial Killer*, given an "18" rating on the assumption that the public would be responsible. "But if 18 means 12, the system will break down, and we shall be unable to have freedom for adults in this country because we can't trust adults to protect children."

Ferman's own favourite films still include *Singin' in the Rain*, *The Philadelphia Story*, *Some Like It Hot* and *City Lights*. "I have a vague hankering after the days when films were literate," he says. He looks forward every year to getting away to Crete, to walk in the mountains, far from screens of any kind.

Since last week's shooting of a Florida gynaecologist, some of America's medical establishment now live in fear of their lives

A family that has to live with lunacy on the front lawn

On most Saturday mornings, just when Dr Bernard Luck, his wife Louise and their two children have finished breakfast together, they can look out from the front porch of their white wooden house in the little town of Goshen and see a line of people marching up and down, yelling abuse and waving signs such as "Dr Luck murders babies" or "Abortion is Today's Holocaust".

The family learnt to deal with the regular protest by ignoring it as much as possible, but just before Christmas, they realised how dangerous some of the more militant anti-abortionists could be.

Fifty demonstrators from both sides of the abortion debate surrounded their house *in upstate New York, at a time* when the children were at home. Suddenly a young man charged through the crowd of pro-choice protestors on their front lawn, ripping posters out of their hands and screaming "Kill the murderer, kill the murderer". The 24-year-old man was arrested, charged with disorderly conduct and freed on $100 bail. His case is still to be heard.

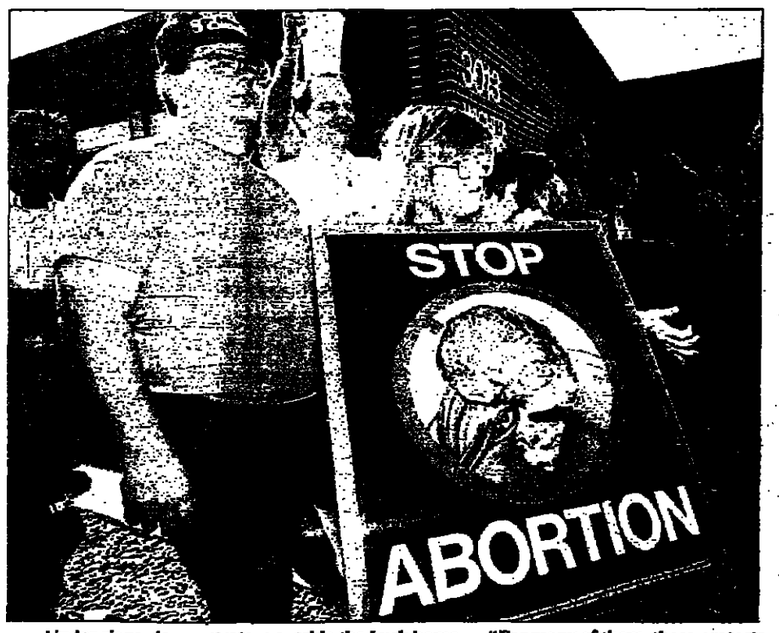
The Lucks dread seeing him in the crowd again. Since Dr David Gunn was shot last week outside his Florida abortion clinic "we have been very, very frightened", Mrs Luck says. "I hope that this at least means there will be some awareness of what fanaticism can turn into."

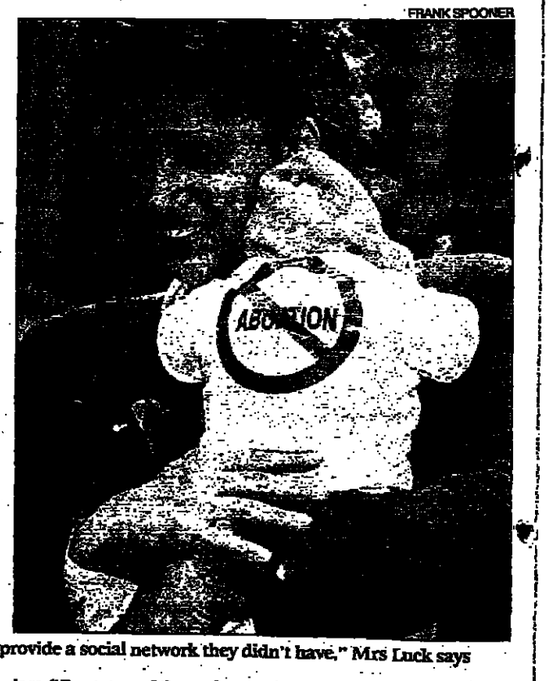
For the past ten years, there have been anti-abortion protests at Dr Luck's one-man obstetric and gynaecology practice in the nearby village of Blooming Grove. Mostly he deals with general medical services for women — pregnancy, post-natal care and mammograms — and he performs abortions only on two mornings a week. The demonstrators targeted his 20 or so patients on those two days, surrounding their cars, handing them plastic foetuses or linking arms to block the clinic doors until the police arrested them.

In late 1991, there was a sudden escalation in the harassment. Randall Terry, the founder of Operation Rescue, attended a meeting of the local Orange County Right to Life and urged them to make doctors' lives "miserable". "That means they see you in front of their house, their practice and their golf course," he told the town's newspaper. Soon after, the protestors began their Saturday morning vigils in front of the Lucks' drive.

Dr Luck, who is Jewish, found some signs particularly hard to stomach. Aside from liberal use of the word "Holocaust", the worst was one which said "Close America's death camps".

It was when the demonstrators got to his children that he tried to stop the protests outside his house. First, he discovered his five-year-old son was being harassed at school by the children of anti-abortionists. There were strange calls to his home, and the anti-abortionists started to take photographs of the licence plates of the family cars, and videoed his son and 17-year-old daughter leaving and entering. After the demonstrators dispersed one afternoon, one remained, and when Dr Luck's daughter started walking down South Street, he trailed her slowly in his car and began shouting abuse from the window. (To avoid giving ammunition to such people, the Lucks do not want their children's names to be published.)





FRANK SPOONER

Under siege: demonstrators outside the Luck home . . . "For many of them, these protests provide a social network they didn't have," Mrs Luck says

Dr Luck went to the village council and asked for a rule to be made against picketing a private home, citing the harassment of his daughter.

The council agreed, but the demonstrators have circumvented the rule by asking for a parade permit on Saturdays, and instead of standing still, which would be a picket, they parade back and forth in front of the house for two hours, taking slow, tiny steps.

"We don't let our son play out front any more. He stays in the backyard," Mrs Luck says. He has regular nightmares about "the bad men coming to get me". Mrs Luck has nightmares, too: "Of course it has to affect you after ten years." Her husband, she says, is under great pressure, but he tries to joke about it.

With her experience as a family psychotherapist, Mrs Luck thinks some of the demonstrators are not just fanatical, but seriously disturbed. During the week, nine out of ten of them are men, either pensioners or the unemployed. Because the town is so small, she knows the background of some of the regulars. "For many of them, these daily protests have provided a social network they didn't have. Some of the men still live with their mothers; others seem to really hate women — even harass the heavily pregnant ones coming in: 'How can you have your baby delivered by a murderer?' or 'Your baby's going to burn in hell'."

One anti-abortionist arrives each week in full hunting gear — camouflage uniform, orange fluorescent vest and his hunting licence prominently displayed. So far, he has left his guns at home. The Lucks now have full security systems and alarms rigged up in their house and the clinic. A security guard comes to their house on Saturdays when a "parade" is planned, and protects the clinic two days a week.

With abortion clinics elsewhere closing daily, and patients driving for two hours to come to Blooming Grove, Dr Luck refuses to give up the tiny part of his practice which is causing so much trouble. Mrs Luck says she will not move. "I was born around here. I love it here. It is just at the moment it feels as if we are living among bigots of *in the rural south* 30 years ago."

KATE MUIR

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هكذا من الأصل

Walter Ellis reports on the spiritual turmoil among the clergy and congregation of Gloucester Cathedral

Betrayed by a modern-day saint

CHRIS HARRIS



Steps to renewal: the spiritual calm of the cloisters at Gloucester Cathedral were shattered by the loss of the "prayerful and holy" bishop. "People had taken him to their hearts," said the wife of one vicar

His name was Peter, and on his rock they built their church. The disgraced former bishop of Gloucester, Peter Ball, was enthroned in his magnificent cathedral less than a year ago and was received by a grateful diocese as a very particular gift from God. Intensely spiritual, a monk, unmarried, he was seen almost as a throwback to the period of Gloucester Abbey, prior to its dissolution in 1540, when the church was ruled by the Benedictines and was a shrine and a monument to Norman stability.

But Bishop Peter, though everything they said he was, was more besides, and last December, after a flurry of newspaper revelations concerning his homosexual advances on a novice monk, he was forced to flee his throne and contemplate his sins. Today, even his whereabouts are unknown. He left "in penitence and sorrow", and those he left behind are grieving still.

The cathedral, washed in the clarity of a Cotswold spring, remains an impressive blend of Romanesque massivity and Perpendicular disdain. Edward II was buried here following his horrifying murder by paid assassins using a red-hot poker; Robert of Normandy, the eldest son of William the Conqueror, lies close by; bishops abound, their proud effigies defaced by centuries of petty vandalism. It is here, and in the surrounding College Green, that the theatre of the English church is regularly played out, outwardly unchanged since the days of Trollope. But it is here, too, that the public mistakes are made that are so destructive of community trust.

For the county, the bishop's sudden fall from grace was a shock all the greater for coming from a seemingly inviolate source. "He was such a prayerful and holy man," says the Rev Michael Bennett, editor of the diocesan gazette. "He would get up at five each morning to offer prayers, except on Saturdays, when he would get up at six. Everybody was incredibly fond of him, right across all the shades of churchmanship."

Katherine Heidt, wife of the vicar of Up Hatherly, near Cheltenham, was similarly affected. "People had been enchanted with the new bishop. They had taken him to their hearts. There was a real sense of a new beginning. Instead, now we feel let down. But we have to remember this is a Christian diocese, and there are many worse sins than sins of the flesh."

Women appear more understanding, less condemnatory than might have been expected. Perhaps they know men only too well. One leading parishioner from Burton-on-the-Hill, in the heart of the Cotswolds, says she was more disappointed than shocked.

"He was a marvellous chap and it is a great pity what has happened to him. There is no sense of anger here, rather one of sadness."

Even she, however, from the fastness of her rural retreat, recognises that the scandal has produced a "very difficult period" for Gloucester and left the diocese in limbo. "Now we have to pick up the pieces. I only hope that the next bishop is more straightforward — preferably someone who wants to use the old Prayer Book and is opposed to women's ordination. We don't want one with kinky ideas."

Who the new man will be — the 39th of his line — is a matter, as always, for the prime minister, advised by the Crown Appointments Commission. But in sleepy Gloucester, the Vacancy in See committee has already been summoned to consider the needs and traditions of the diocese, and pressure is growing to ensure the selection of a "safe pair of hands".

In the contemporary Church of England, bishops are notoriously a mixed bag. Between the tambourine resonances of the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, and the delphic theology of the Bishop of Durham, Dr David Jenkins, lies a whole host of opinions, many of which would have been regarded as dangerously louche, or radical, in Victorian England but which are now seen as entirely typical.

Yet bishops remain central figures in the church. They have an authority which goes beyond that of parish clergyand an independence which is not easily checked. Had the Bishop of Gloucester doubted Christ's divinity, he would have been fine. Modern Anglicanism deals comfortably with doubt. His "crime" was to give way to a temptation that has yet to be fully endorsed, but may well be by the end of the century.

The old certainties are not what they were. Ever since a former Bishop of Woolwich, Dr John Robinson, produced his slim volume of episcopal doubts, *Honest to God*, in 1964, England's prelates have enjoyed a reputation mainly as social critics, whose orthodoxy is far from guaranteed. Those among them, such as Bill Westwood, the Bishop of Peterborough, who manage to combine political conservatism with a robust, Prayer Book spirituality, are rare birds indeed.

In Gloucester, whose last bishop but one, the Rt Rev John Yates, spent much of his time politicking as chairman of the church's Board for Social Responsibility, the desire for a pastoral bishop is almost palpable. They thought they had found one in Peter Ball, but had found a cloistered gay instead, albeit one of impeccable Christian convictions.

"He's certainly not what we expected," one old lady observes dryly, making her way across College Green. "No," her friend replies, with the hint of a smile. "We'd never have guessed he was like that."

No one did. That was the point. Next time they want to be sure. In his forthcoming diocesan letter, the Right Rev Jeremy Walsh, suffragan bishop of Tewkesbury, standing in for the missing Bishop Ball, offers his stricken colleague "our continuing love and prayers". But he is determined that whoever replaces him should be acceptable to the diocese and is encouraging an active debate.

"We didn't consider names last time, and we are having to come to terms with the result. It is not easy. What happened was a shattering experience for some of the clergy, even those who had deduced last December what was likely to happen, and we all need time to think. I must say, though, that many in the diocese feel that one offence does not negate a ministry, and I have received hundreds of letters of support for Bishop Peter as well as some from people seeking explanation and help.

"Now we must use this time of Lent and Holy Week to reflect on the future. There must be a new beginning at the other side of Easter day."

Right turn on arts as French look forward to the past

Sunday's elections could see a cultural backlash after 12 years of socialist rule

On Sunday, France is virtually certain to throw the socialists out of the government they have run for most of the past 12 years. But behind the current anguish over unemployment and the riots over farm and fish prices lies a deeper emotion, a sense of loss and nostalgic yearning for a golden age that is reflected in films, pop songs about rural France, and the medieval designs which have hit the catwalks in this week's autumn fashion shows.

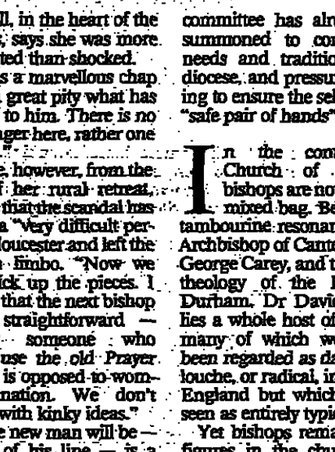
The film of the moment is *Les Visiteurs*, the tale of a 12th-century knight, Godefroy le Hardi, Seigneur de Montmireil, who takes time off from fighting "*les Anglois*" and travels through time, ending up in the latter days of the reign of King François the Magnificent. Here he discovers that "*un gueux*", a lowly villain, now owns his beloved château and has converted it into a hotel for the Range Rover set. The film's satire on the philistine values which pervade France has made it a huge hit.

The most obvious political symptom of the backwards look is the surge for the alliance of ecology parties, which are expected to take at least 15 per cent of the vote in the two-round elections. The ecologists are denying charges that they want to return France to the age of candlelight, but, catching the drift, Brice Lalonde, leader of *Génération Ecologie* is calling on voters to elect "some Robin Hoods to shake up the socialist nobility".

The sense of loss is particularly powerful for those who voted for the left and were nurtured in the convictions of socialist utopia. Their sense of betrayal is generating an outpouring of anger towards the class which turned itself into a new aristocracy.

The prime target of opprobium is Jack Lang, the culture minister. With only a two-year break since 1981, he has presided as M Mitterrand's master of ceremonies, lavishing billions of pounds on the arts and erecting grand monuments, such as has not been been seen since the days of Louis XIV.

Furiously energetic and possessed of a personal charm, M Lang has won favour as a champion of popular art, from graffiti artists and rap singers to clothes designers and restaurant chefs. Until lately most of the creative classes have considered the state's largesse to be laudable. In a typical tribute, Frederico Fellini recently likened M Lang to the *princes* and popes of the Italian Renaissance.



Eco-friendly: Arielle Dombasle

But in recent months, the winds have turned and many of the same intellectual classes have suddenly discovered that their cultural emperor is a naked purveyor of trivial vulgarity. "Art is the new opium of the people," says Michel Schneider, a leftie who served M Lang as director of music and dance, who has just written a vitriolic book, *La Comédie de la Culture*, denouncing his former master. France's minister of modernity had merely elevated entertainment to the level of culture, promoting banality and the corruption of a pampered "*gauche caviare*" which has neglected the real needs of the people.

Leaving their old scruples behind, the Paris *intellos* have been queuing up to see the Lang era being mocked in the latest film by Eric Rohmer, *L'Arbre, le Maire et la Médiathèque*. This features an aristocratic socialist mayor who, of course, lives in an old château and receives funds from M Lang's ministry to build a hideous modern culture centre in his little village in the Vendée. Most of the film revolves around the mayor's arguments with his Parisienne girlfriend, played by Arielle Dombasle, on whether he is not more in tune with the values of the ecology parties and whether this made him a "reactionary".

So, with the once-loathed right now about to return to power, much of the intellectual world is rediscovering the merits of romantic conservatism. Perhaps Sartre and de Beauvoir got it wrong about all integrity coming from the left.

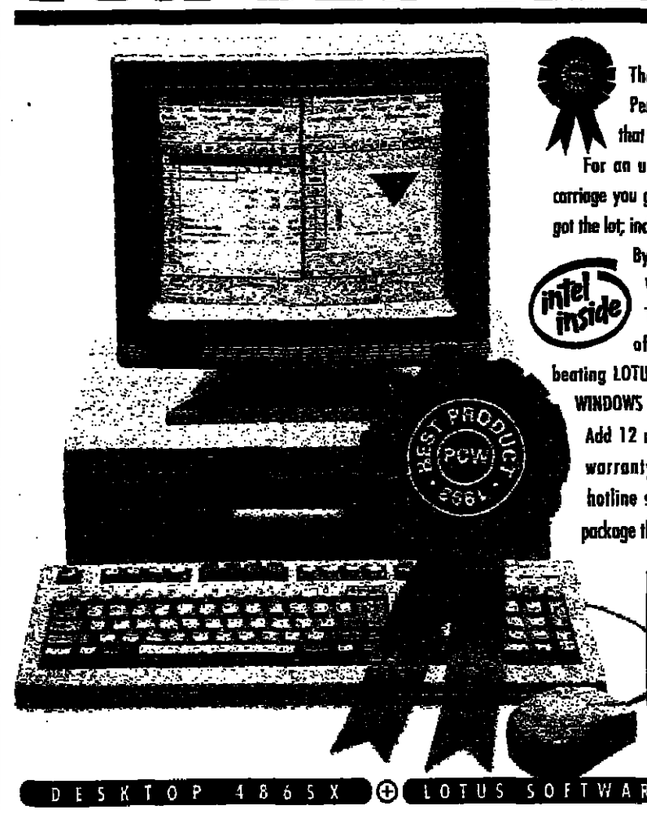
Surely, the thinkers are noting, half the poets of the 19th century, as well as the likes of Stendhal and Victor Hugo, managed to be both intellectually respectable and on the "right".

Philippe Sollers, the novelist, and others have also rediscovered an old admiration for General de Gaulle, who created the first ministry of culture. The creative world need not worry about their money drying up. The Gaullists and their centre-right allies are promising to promote culture on just as lavish a scale, only putting the emphasis back on "quality".

According to Jacques Toubon, the Gaullist who has been most active in lobbying for the culture job, the formula for a successful cultural policy should be "*mort aux cons*", death to bloody fools. A trifle crude, but Godefroy le Hardi could not have put it better.

CHARLES BREMNER

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Janet Daley



■ Treating a young victim as a miniature adult in court may not serve the interests of justice or the child

When infants are the victims of cruelty, they cannot testify against those who mistreat them, and children who are attacked may not be reliable witnesses. Thus the difficulty of prosecuting such crimes is heightened by the criminal justice procedure.

This issue came into disturbing focus during the recent case of an eight-week-old baby who died in circumstances which, as was established, could not have been accidental, but whose parents could not be prosecuted because they refused to give evidence. Even when abuse does not result in death, the objection that the only prosecution witnesses in crimes of child cruelty may be the children themselves can make it excessively difficult to gain a conviction. But, ironically, moves toward regarding children as honorary grown-ups with their own legal rights may actually harm their cause.

Our adversarial legal system is based on the assumption that prosecution and defence are engaged in a contest to prove or disprove guilt. What is crucial to this approach is that the two sides are assumed to be reasonably well matched. This goes back to a time when justice was being meted out to individuals who were all presumed to be adults. No one envisaged a disastrously unequal contest between a frightened child and his adult assailant, because children were not conceived as complainants in their own right.

The notion that children should be seen as fully-fledged citizens able to get justice on the same terms as their elders — that they too should be equal in the eyes of the law — is very recent. Now, it is a commonplace of progressive social thinking that while a child may be the legal responsibility of his parents, he is not their legal *property*. This seems admirable and straightforward — children are not chattels — but the consequences of this view when dealing with child-citizens in the courts are more problematic.

The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children has this week launched a campaign significantly entitled "Justice for Children", which aims to offer children a better chance of just treatment. Some of the proposals seem eminently commonsensical and humane. Who could argue with the demand that a child be spared the trauma of testifying in the witness-box when this means publicly describing a distressing experience while face-to-face with an attacker?

What the society suggests is that children's evidence should always be given to the court on videotape. But recorded testimony allows no possibility of cross examination, which is, in other forms of criminal trial, regarded as a fundamental right of the defence.

So would this way of protecting children from further emotional damage be *seriously prejudicial to a fair* trial? A clever defence counsel could make much of the inability to cross-examine, with the net effect that juries would actually be less likely to convict. And how conducive would that be to justice for the child victim?

Many of the proposals which the NSPCC makes for "child-friendly" courts are measures which would be welcomed as much by adult victims. The disorganisation in criminal court buildings, which can cause the accused and his alleged victim literally to run into one another, creates anxiety and invites intimidation. The society's proposals are practical only insofar as children are like adults, not unlike them. No one wants to meet his assailant in the corridor, and ensuring that this does not happen ought to be feasible. But it is in the respects in which children are quite different from grown-ups that the real difficulties arise.

> As earlier generations knew, a child needs protection more than he needs 'justice'

One of the most disturbing *facts noted by the* NSPCC is that a child victim cannot be given counselling until *after* he or she *has appeared in* court. During the months or even years that it may take for a case to come to trial, the child may be given no support or preparation. This apparently heartless rule is thought necessary to prevent a child being coached or led into false testimony, and cruel though it may seem, it is based on the unquestionable truth that children are very suggestible and are often (especially when distressed) tempted to say what adults seem to want to hear. Again, children are disadvantaged by the wish to promote them to adult status: to make them as credible as witnesses as their opponents in court.

It might be possible to change the "right to silence" rule in child murder cases so that judges can at least tell juries when the accused has refused to speak. But to talk of "justice" for the dead child misses the point. Should we be equipping child victims with legal rights as if they were a persecuted minority group? Children are not miniature adults. They need protection more than they need "justice", and this means allowing for the immaturity that disables them under the law. This might involve removing them from trial proceedings altogether and having adults report to the court on their behalf. Paternalistic perhaps, but earlier generations would have seen it as a natural part of being responsible for the young.

There are a lot of good ways for a man to be wicked — and to help us all feel better off

Fair shares in the great redistribution scam

Bernard Levin

This story is set in France; to be exact in Dieppe, where all the incidents of the story took place. But it is by no means a French story. Truth to tell, it follows closely upon the heels of one of the most English of legends, and if by the end of this strange unfairytale you wish to be indignant at the French cheek in stealing our heroes, please feel free to make your displeasure clear. Meanwhile, I must get on with the story.

The central figure in it is, or more exactly was — the distinction is *important* — a bank manager. But be assured; this is not another denunciation of the banks for their grasping ways, their sharp practices, their stony hearts. Far from it: this is a tale to warm the heart of a snowman, even an icicle, and it is no exaggeration to say that if all banks behaved as the one in my story did, they would be hailed as benefactors of the human race, and applauded down the ages. Mind you, they would all be ruined, with most of the staff sacked and a considerable number in jail, but you can't satisfy everybody in this imperfect world.

Our maestro of the till, whose name has not been disclosed, for reasons that will transpire, was, to all outward appearances, a modest, careful, diligent worker — certainly, that was his employers' opinion of him. Indeed, he *was* all those things; the trouble was that he was something else as well.

He had spent all his adult life in the bank, but for the last 12 years, as he carefully attended to his labours, his labours had dramatically changed. Only then, and by an accident, was he revealed as a thief, and a monumental one at that: so much so, that the bank has no idea how much he stole in the 12 years of his larcenies, but has had to guess. They say it amounts to £100,000, but it might be more. Not less, though.

By now, my readers may be somewhat puzzled. I made clear that this was a tale to lift the spirits and make the world look better, and here I am advertising nothing but a sordid *story*, told a thousand times, of a man in a position of trust breaking that trust. Where is the uplift?

Well, what will you say when I tell you that the prosecutor — the prosecutor, not the defendant's *maitre* — said in court that the prisoner in the dock was *scrupulously honest*. And so he was, oddly enough, at least in following the English hero of whom I spoke in guarded tones. For the name of that hero, who did not live in Dieppe, but in Sherwood Forest, is Robin Hood. And every franc Rouge-Gorge le Bois embezzled went to the poor.

We shall come to the ethics in a moment; first, the details (I think only the *Telegraph* correspondent had some). It seems that Robin started his attempt to adjust the monetary scales of life when he began seeing worried customers of the bank going into the red. Worrying about those who could not make ends meet, he stretched the ends and tied the knots. His beneficiaries (well, not exactly his, but you know what I mean) were carefully examined, via the bank's figures: it seems that he pilfered only for those most in need. A widow in trouble with a tax-bill discovered that her account was plump and rosy, a young couple seeking a mortgage found one, that sort of thing.

Before I continue, I must say that if I wanted to rob a bank, I would choose the one in Dieppe, where these things happened, because not only were the bank supervisors (if any) ignorant of what was going on under their noses, but the customers he was robbing were apparently no more clued up about what was going on in their shrinking balances. There was, for instance, a priest who came into an inheritance and found — or rather did not find — that his windfall had become lighter by the equivalent of £15,000. But Monsieur X (as he was called throughout the proceedings — it is touching to think of the care taken to ensure that he did not suffer embarrassment) was hardly more indifferent to the need for careful accounting: he cheerfully admitted that he had not made any note of the recipient of "his" largess, nor the amount largessed.

See, however, how his downfall came about, and a sad tale it makes. One of Monsieur X's beneficiaries was asked to give the money back; presumably there were more urgent claimants on Monsieur X's supply of other people's money. The previous recipient refused to return what by then he must have thought his, and the monetary fracas that followed led to an audit, which — for the first time in 12 years — showed serious discrepancies. Presumably, if that contretemps had not come up, our hero — well, *their* hero — would have continued indefinitely, since there has never been any mention of retirement.

Somehow, Jean Valjean floats into my mind, and then, inevitably, the bishop's candlesticks. Throughout history, and perhaps rather more in literature, there have been criminals with hearts of gold. My first meeting of one of these was in a series of crime novels in my young boyhood which depicted a heroic cat-burgler who was called, of all things, Blackshirt. I devoured the books, though those were the days when Oswald Mosley and his Jew-baiting fascists stalked Camden Town, their uniform giving them their informal name, "the blackshirts", and I had the devil's own job to understand how the character in the books, who was a hero for me, was also a source of unmitigated evil. (Does anybody remember those books, and if so, is there a solution to the mystery?)

Don't tell me that a bad man cannot be good in a different dimension, usually as a great artist. Wagner was by no means bad all through, but he was quite bad enough; I wouldn't have turned my back on Marlowe if he had a grudge against me, and probably not even if he hadn't; I cannot remember which Renaissance genius killed a man in a duel; I had a dreadful shock very recently, when I discovered that Damon Runyan, creator of those warm-hearted Broadway figures he conjured up was an odious man; Edgar Allen Poe was a great deal worse. But of course the palm must go to Villon — murderer, thief, gangster, traducer — and the greatest poet, save Shakespeare, the world has ever seen.

And Robin Hood? Did he exist? Or, because that is putting the question much too bluntly, was there a figure resembling the legend? The power and persistence of the story suggests that there was *someone* who, if he didn't exactly rob from the rich to give to the poor, was nevertheless the champion of the poor and the defender of them from the powerful. I like to think so, anyway.

Well, the anonymous redistributor of wealth in Dieppe has done his bit. The court sentenced him to a year and a half in prison, but it was fully suspended; there was a fine as well, for the equivalent of £1,500, which he could not get out of; it is too much to hope that he embezzled the sum from this extraordinarily careless bank.

The customers whom our dubious hero robbed seem to be a forbearing lot. They don't seem to be roaring for vengeance, or even their money back at once, and they are happy to go along with the decision to keep his identity unknown. He has to pay back what he stole, but he has embarked on a course of repayment over time.

All's well that ends well. On the other hand, Monsieur X was a thief and an embezzler; I don't think we should put him up as a role-model to the young. Come to think of it, the entire welfare state in this country is based on the principles Monsieur X demonstrated, right down to the suspended sentence, the anonymity and the lack of rancour among the mulcted — the last no doubt attributable to the unlikelihood, however passionately promised, of their ever seeing their money again.

Anatomy of a hard bargain

Chris Patten must remember that haggling is a Chinese art-form, says **Derek Davies**



If you can't stand the heat: Chris Patten with Chen Ziying of the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office

The Foreign Office mandarins who governed Hong Kong until Chris Patten's appointment and who were in charge of the negotiations over its future, have always seemed somewhat out of touch with the people whose fate they have been shaping. The years they spent in studying the Chinese language and culture apparently gave them little appreciation of the willingness of the Cantonese to make a heap of all his winnings and risk them on one turn of the horses round the Happy Valley racecourse, or of the delight his wife takes in a long bargaining session in Central Market which ends with two dollars off the price of a plump bird.

There have been several attempts, mostly by Americans, to analyse Chinese bargaining techniques. One of the best was a confidential guidance paper in the early 1980s produced by a Rand Corporation think-tank for the US National Intelligence Council. It was written by Richard Solomon, who more recently served the Bush administration as Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia and the Pacific, and was based on the experience of the officials who negotiated the normalisation of Sino-US relations after Richard Nixon's visit in 1972.

The Chinese, according to the paper, divide the bargaining process into four stages. During the preliminary Opening Moves, they busily cultivate personal relationships, which can later be manipulated, using feelings of obligation or guilt.

The American paper notes that Chinese officials are "single-minded and disciplined in pursuit of Chinese interests". In fact, since the 1989 Tiananmen killings, their officials have been less disciplined, but generally solidarity is maintained. The British negotiators, on the other hand, suffer from all of democracy's disadvantages, being bombarded with criticism from all sides, including Hong Kong business interests who do not like boat-rocking.

Following the preliminary skirmishes, comes a period of Assessment, during which the Chinese seek to draw out their counterparts and to test their patience and intentions. They also try to certain principles, later constantly evoked, but actually disposable as needs be. The paper cites the example of discussions about a Sino-Japanese air-transport agreement which foundered on such "principles", before being swiftly concluded when electronic bugs, evidently placed in the guest house room used by visiting prime minister, convinced the Chinese that they had exhausted Japanese patience.

During the Assessment period, the paper argues, Peking's bargaining positions are highly sensitive to the play of internal political factions: a strong leader can ordain a negotiating stance which no collective leadership could agree on, but the stance may be softened or hardened according to the leader's political health. The more rigid or posturing the negotiators (or irrational their stance), the more one can be sure that internal pressures are being brought to bear. Strongman Deng Xiaoping was obviously on top when he insisted on garrisoning Hong Kong in 1984; today he is nearly 90 and is trying to project his policies beyond his death against the challenges of both hardliners and reformers. Similarly, the prime minister Li Peng's operatic denunciations of British perfidiousness must be seen against a backcloth of political infighting.

During the End Game period, Peking decides whether to abort discussions, reserve its position or conclude an agreement. Particularly in these final stages, the Chinese strongly prefer the bargaining to take place on their own territory. This aids decision-making, communications and the manipulation of the press, while putting considerable strain on foreign diplomats. Frequent journeys to Peking led to the death in 1986, in the Chinese capital, of Hong Kong governor Sir Edward Youde, and the health of the three other governors who have held office since the talks began has also suffered. Hong Kong had cause for worry when the "talks about talks" which led to the present impasse were shifted to Peking, instead of Hong Kong.

During the End Game, China's negotiators attempt to reduce their opposite numbers to the role of suppliants. The study paper observes that they often put pressure on by imposing a deadline for an agreement, *as they did in 1983 with the* British, who obediently raced to cobble together the Joint Declaration by the following year.

The final stage — Implementation — sees the Chinese insisting on adherence to the deal (which is fair enough), but also making extra demands, reopening issues which the foreigners thought resolved, seeking modifications, and quickly criticising any perceived lapse as betraying a lack of "sincerity" while urging "understanding" of any shortfall on their own part. This analysis from the US paper brilliantly encapsulates how China has gone about eroding many Joint Declaration pledges.

None of this would strike a Hong Kong Chinese as original or reprehensible. Bargaining is an art-form, and those who do not bother to squeeze another few dollars out of a buyer are hardly worthy of respect.

Chris Patten understands power and has instinctively used some of the Chinese' own bargaining ploys against them. He has out-manoeuvred them in his manipulation of the press, and hurried them into precipitate action by imposing his own deadline. He even planted the potentially divisive idea that in future China may need Hong Kong more than Hong Kong needs China.

The die is cast, and the stakes are even higher than before. But the people of Hong Kong are used to high risks and recognise China's bluster as the latest ploy in a bargaining session. Their only regret is that Britain did not put a hard bargainer in place when Margaret Thatcher first opened the 1997 talks.

The author was editor of The Far Eastern Economic Review *1964-90.*

Late on the slate

NORMAN Lamont is not the only politician struggling to get borrowing under control. Stern warnings have been issued in the Palace of Westminster about bar bills and the length of time it is taking peers of the realm to pay them.

Lord Peston, who looks after the Lords refreshment department, has circulated a memorandum which threatens interest rates of 5 per cent above base on all bills not been paid within 30 days. "An administration fee of £10 will be charged for each reminder about late payment sent to Peers," he storms.

The stiff notice follows a recommendation from the National Audit Office that "the rules governing payment and credit in the House of Lords Refreshment Department should be clarified". Peston concedes that peers who dine guests or host functions may have difficulty settling bills immediately. "The rule then is that the bill should be paid on the next sitting day or, if the next sitting day comes after a recess, the next day."

Members of the upper House think they understand it, but are somewhat startled by the strong tone of Peston's note. One occasional visitor to the bar said it gave the impression that "peers of the realm spend their time permanently sloshed on port and good wine; it's far from the case."

Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, the former Lord Chancellor, backs this view. "I do not think I have seen a man hopelessly drunk in the House of Lords," he says. "But I can't say the same for the House of Commons." Hailsham, who always pays cash, nevertheless exploits his position as a former commoner. "I use the restaurant at the Commons because it's cheaper and better. The Lords' has nursery food like rice pudding. And anyway, I'm too old to drink at lunch now."

● *The saga of Michael Portillo's eating habits continues. On Wednesday admirers of the Treasury's chief secretary might have been puzzled by their hero's initially faltering performance. Challenged by Gordon Brown, Portillo sat in his seat, rising only after jeers from across the floor, to mumble that he would make his "own speech later". The Opposition thought it had got the government on the run. Not so. Portillo had a mouthful of toffee.*

In the stars

DON'T take that big commission, it's certain to bring bad luck. In 1991 a company owned by Lindka Cierach, the creator of the Duchess of York's wedding dress, went into liquidation. Shortly afterwards, David and Elizabeth Emanuel, who designed the Princess of Wales's wedding dress, set their clients an example by splitting up.

Thankfully all three have weathered their problems, a good omen perhaps for Sarah Phillips, who designed the sparkly violet number worn by Hillary Clinton at the inaugural Arkansas Ball in Washington two months ago. Last month an investor backed out, leaving Phillips without the cash to finance her autumn collection.

In an interview with *People* magazine, she says: "I understand you have to struggle for the first few years but now, especially after the Inaugural gown, I would have thought it might have been easier." Phillips is consoling herself with a holiday in Alaska.



DIARY

Bubbly Bourbon

CONSPICUOUS by his absence at this week's action-packed dinners to honour the erstwhile BBC director general Sir Michael Checkland has been Michael Grade, the chief executive of Channel 4 and erstwhile director of programmes at the BBC.

Grade, it seems, is a long way from being forgiven either for the manner of his going to Channel 4 in 1987 or for his lecture at last year's Edinburgh Television Festival, in which he blamed what he saw as the corporation's terminal decline on the policies of its governing body. His comments prompted Marmaduke Hussey to describe him as nothing more than "a Bourbon in red braces".

Yesterday the unrepentant Bourbon was enjoying the irony of hosting a champagne breakfast for Channel 4's 17 Oscar nominees in London's Waldorf hotel, while just across the road in Bush House the BBC governors were locked in their latest crisis meeting. "I'm still very much *persona non grata* there," he says. "But that's fine, because I'm having such a wonderful time at Channel 4."

Good sport

CASTING around for something to fill his retirement years, Sir Michael Checkland, a youthful 57, must be considering a number of possibilities. A sinecure on the board of his beloved Birmingham City football club, perhaps.

The fact that the club has recently been bought by David Sullivan, owner of the *Daily Sport*, does not deter him. "I would think about it if approached, but I think they would want an investment from me as well."

Pardon?

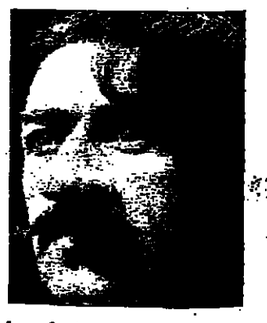
WHEN Lord Ashley receives his Snowdon award today, for services to the cause of the disabled, he will as ever be accompanied by his wife, Pauline. The former Labour MP, who is deaf, reads her lips and hand signals to interpret what people are saying.

But even Pauline knows her place when it comes to meeting the Queen.

Robert Edwards, former editor of the *Daily Express* and trustee of the Snowdon Award Scheme, recalls that at a party at Buckingham Palace the Queen talked directly to Ashley for several minutes. Pauline stood by and did nothing.

Edwards was puzzled. "How come the Queen can speak directly to you, but I have to speak through Pauline?" he asked. Pauline duly interpreted his words. Ashleyleft him in no doubt. "The Queen's diction," he replied, "is better than yours." Well, it's her English, isn't it?

Comedy award? He's not amused



● Last year his role in *GBH* won him a Best TV Actor award. This year Robert Lindsay has been nominated for Best Comedy Performance for his role in *Cyrano de Bergerac*, currently running at the Haymarket Theatre in London. While most performers would be flattered by the nomination, Lindsay considers it too frivolous and would prefer the Best Actor award.

As feelings are running high, he refuses to comment about the nomination. The judges, however, are used to such upsets. "I don't want to comment about particular cases," says one. "But all awards are subject to arguments about who is in what category. There are always going to be arguments."

A KENNEDY COMES HOME

America should seek to heal, not inflame, Ireland's old wounds

Thirty years after her brother made his triumphant presidential trip to Ireland, Jean Kennedy Smith has been appointed American ambassador to Dublin by President Clinton. Her return to the land of her forefathers will delight Irish nationalists on both sides of the Atlantic, confident in the Kennedy clan's commitment to their cause. It must be hoped that, as the daughter of an ambassador to the court of St James (albeit one of the least sympathetic ever to hold that post) she listens with as much care to the British case on Northern Ireland.

More than 40 million Americans claim to be part-Irish, a constituency which no president can afford to ignore. Just as President Reagan made political capital out of his Irish roots, so it was natural for Bill Clinton to court the Irish vote and to welcome Albert Reynolds, the Irish Taoiseach, to the White House on St Patrick's Day.

But the Irish lobby in Washington will demand much more than good fellowship. As candidate, Mr Clinton pledged to issue visas to Republican sympathisers such as Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein president. He also committed himself to the MacBride principles, which would force American businesses to leave Northern Ireland unless they employed an acceptable number of Catholics. If Mr Clinton wishes to encourage investment in Northern Ireland, he should renounce this ridiculous constraint on the labour market at once.

Not since President Carter stopped arms supplies to the Royal Ulster Constabulary have American supporters of Irish nationalism been so optimistic. Mrs Smith's brother Senator Edward Kennedy was one of 12 senators who wrote to Mr Clinton strongly criticising the British government's record in Northern Ireland. Her nephew, Congressman Joe Kennedy, claimed this week that Irish citizens were being denied basic human rights. The arrival on Irish soil of a Kennedy in official capacity is bound to set Unionist nerves jangling and will disappoint those in Britain who had hoped for a established Anglophile such as Tom Foley, the speaker of the House.

Unlike her more outspoken relatives, Mrs Smith has been discreet in what she has said about Ireland. Discretion will be needed. The view from the civic halls of Boston and the Irish pubs of Philadelphia is not the same as the view from Belfast. The soldier shot dead in south Amargh on Wednesday was the fourth member of the security forces to be assassinated by a single shot in nine months. The prospect of cross-border raids by Unionist paramilitaries into the Republic seems to be drawing closer. The last thing Ireland needs is another aggressive voice.

Instead, Mrs Smith should vigorously encourage the present trend towards conciliation. Two weeks ago, Dick Spring, the Irish foreign minister and deputy prime minister, indicated that the new coalition would support a change to the constitution, dropping the Republic's claim to the north. He deserves help from every quarter in this historic campaign, not least to ensure that his Fianna Fáil partners really do shed their nationalist livery.

Mrs Smith should also support the efforts of Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland secretary, to rekindle the Anglo-Irish talks: a task which could be frustrated by loud posturing in Washington, particularly in the investigation threatened by the Senate. Her first dispatch to the president should urge him not to send an official peace envoy to the province. A "fact-finding" mission from the White House would do little harm and might persuade Mr Clinton of the complexity of the Irish situation. To go further would do nothing for Anglo-American relations and nothing for Ireland.

GREY DAWN IN FRANCE

Socialists may be swept out, only to be replaced by confusion

France's socialists swept to power in 1981 in a flurry of street parties and excited talk of change. This Sunday, the French are expected to vote so massively for the centre-right Union pour la France (UPF) coalition that the result of the parliamentary elections may be clear before the second round on March 28. The UPF could win 100 more seats than the 289 required for a majority.

Yet this apparently dramatic swing to the right carries none of 1981's electric charge. For the public, there are issues enough: inflation has been tamed, but at the cost of a deepening recession and rapidly rising unemployment. The socialists' determined championship of the *franc fort* has wide public support; the cripplingly high interest rates required to maintain the policy do not. Worries about immigration, once the territory of Jean-Marie Le Pen, have entered mainstream politics. And public disgust kindled by scandals in the Socialist Party, has developed into a generalised contempt for the political class.

Yet the election campaign, subdued to a fault, has slipped by in the night and the likely winners are the first to predict a grey dawn. New laws limiting campaign spending and outlawing political advertising on television, introduced to curb the corrupt stuffing of party coffers, have made for a low-key campaign. On policy, although the UPF platform aims to revive growth through tax cuts and loosen the state's control over key economic sectors, less divides left and right than the campaign rhetoric pretends. The biggest difference from 1981 is that the presidential and parliamentary races then coincided. This year they do not.

Whether or not the UPF can pull France out of its economic recession, the fault-line in the Vth Republic's constitution — the discrepancy between five-year parliamentary terms and seven-year presential ones — dooms France to two more years of political recession. M Mitterrand has treated with serene contempt UPF demands that he resign in the event of a crushing defeat for his Socialist Party. The UPF thus views its imminent victory as a mixed blessing. The prize is the dubious privilege of two years of "cohabitation" with President Mitterrand.

The real election campaign, for the Elysée, will begin on March 29, and both sides will fight it hard. The constitution gives M Mitterrand the lead in foreign policy and defence, but he has already hinted that if the government attempts much needed reforms of the overspent social security system, he will exploit its ambiguities to defend "the legacy of the left". The president can also count on rifts between M Chirac's RPR and the UDF led by his likely rival in the 1995 race, Valéry Giscard d'Estaing. Whichever of the two parties accepts the president's invitation to assume the premiership, the other may soon drift into semi-opposition.

The malign effects will be felt outside France. During the campaign, left and right have outdone each other in vilifying last year's hardwon agreement on reforming the common agricultural policy and the farm trade accord with America, which is vital to a new Gatt trade agreement. French ambition drove the negotiations which culminated in the Maastricht treaty. France's partners will have their work cut out to prevent the far more consequential discussions on post-Maastricht Europe from being ensnared by domestic French politics.

FUEL TO THE FIRE

The government must learn to take credit as well as blame

The former junior minister who cut his teeth on cold weather payments to the elderly was back at the dispatch box yesterday in a more senior capacity. Once again John Major was forced on to the defensive on the same subject. After murmurs of an uprising within his own party, he confirmed that people on means-tested benefits will be given extra help to meet the higher costs of fuel once it becomes liable for VAT. And cold weather payments too will be adjusted.

That was so obviously the right decision that it seems bizarre that ministers ever thought or spoke differently. Fuel, as a basic necessity, makes up a larger proportion of spending for the poor than for the rich. A tax on fuel is highly regressive, and if the poorest are not sheltered from its effects a few may truly freeze. Civilised countries try not to encourage that end — and the government is now back in civilisation.

There was also warmer news on the economic front yesterday. Happily for this accident-prone administration, *events seem* suddenly to be moving its way. The seasonally adjusted unemployment figures, widely expected to rise above three million, actually fell by 22,000, the first drop for almost three years. This must have contributed to Norman Lamont's more-than-usually sunny countenance on Tuesday. The Treasury knew these figures a week ago, and they served both to explain and to justify the Chancellor's decision not to cut interest rates to offset the impact on consumer and business confidence of the harsh fiscal measures announced in his Budget.

With luck, the fall in the jobless figures may represent the start of a trend. But it is too early for complete confidence. Taking the rolling average change in unemployment, these past three months have been only slightly better than the trimester after the general election. That recovery fizzled out. The government should make it clear that this one will not be allowed to do so.

Despite the occasional ideological shriek to the contrary, governments are genuinely able to influence the level of activity in the economy and the pace of the recovery. The sooner ministers admit as much, the sooner they will be able to take credit for any incipient economic improvement. The depth of recession was caused not by a world downturn, but by interest rates and an exchange rate in Britain that were held needlessly high for too long. Equally the way out of recession has been led, since Britain left the exchange-rate mechanism, by a lower pound and lower interest rates.

Presentation is important here. Had ministers followed the VAT-on-fuel announcement with an immediate statement that the poor would be fully protected, they would have sounded sensible and compassionate. Instead we have witnessed one of those silly little "U-turns" that make the government look as if it is being forced into actions rather than choosing them. The economy is no different. Ministers should be cheering their liberation from the ERM and glorying in their freedom to set interest rates. They could then take full credit for every piece of good news as it comes.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Lamont Budget measures bring happiness to few

From Mr Paul Hardiman

Sir, It is a well known fact that the Conservative party is a party of low taxation and sound economic management whilst Labour increases taxes and presides over a huge budget deficit. Fortunately the electorate realised this as they entered the polling booths in 1992 and disaster was narrowly averted.

Yours sincerely,
PAUL HARDIMAN,
41 Lynton Road,
Acton, W3.
March 17.

From Dr J. C. Potter

Sir, The proposal of the Chancellor to impose value-added tax on heating (report, March 17) was made despite the firm election pledge of the prime minister and will bear most hardly on the most vulnerable in society. It is self-evident that those most affected will be the elderly and infirm who need all-year-round heat, and families with children.

Some help is to be given to those on income support, which is to be welcomed, but there are tens of thousands of retired persons on basic pension who are excluded from income support. Their incomes are so modest that they pay no income tax and this new impost on top of increased council tax and utility charges will cause real hardship.

There is much evidence that the elderly risk hypothermia to save on their heating costs, and this proposal will induce many elderly to try to get by with an inadequate level of heating.

It would not be difficult to exempt all non-taxpayers by a simple form of self-declaration of non-tax status. It is to be hoped that even at this late stage the Chancellor will recognise the injustice of his proposal and take steps to correct it.

Yours faithfully,
J. C. POTTER (Chairman,
Social Security Appeal Tribunals,
Wales and South West, 1980-90),
31 Fernlea Close,
Ferndown, Dorset.
March 17.

From Mr G. R. Thomas

Sir, During the last election, the Conservative party made a great deal of the "tax bombshell" that would hit us all if a certain party were elected. Am I right in thinking that the introduction of VAT on domestic fuel was what the Conservatives meant?

Yours faithfully,
G. R. THOMAS,
146 Charnwood Road,
Hillingdon, Middlesex.

From Mr Simon Hughes, MP for Southwark and Bermondsey (Liberal Democrat), and Mr Benedict Birnberg

Sir, A by-product of the Budget is the probable abandonment or deferral of the controversial BR London Cross-Rail project (report, March 17).

Also swept aside, thankfully, is BR's equally controversial Thameslink 2000 project which would have caused havoc to the Borough conservation area (which includes the cathedral) in Southwark, one of the few relatively unscathed enclaves left in central London. Thameslink 2000, BR's solution to London's north-south rail communication problems, was always a half-baked, piecemeal and ill-considered scheme.

That London indeed needs a through rail and linked network both *east-west (CrossRail) and north-south* is not in doubt.

However, the breathing space afforded by the present absence of public funding should allow the BR planners to go back to their drawing board and conceive a comprehensive system (no doubt funded jointly by public and private finance) which will solve the problem without devastating historic areas of our city.

Yours faithfully,
SIMON HUGHES,
BENEDICT BIRNBERG,
103 Borough High Street,
Southwark, SE1.

From Dr Tim Murphy

Sir, Following Mr Lamont's "Budget for jobs", I find, as a married company car driver with a mortgage, that following the 1994/5 changes in taxation my net income will reduce by about £60 per month.

As a responsible individual, it strikes me as prudent to make provision for that by reducing my spending and increasing my saving now. How, pray, is this supposed to stimulate economic recovery and employment?

Yours sincerely,
T. MURPHY,
2 Bradshaw Meadows,
Bradshaw,
Bolton, Lancashire.
March 17.

From Mr Robin S. Howard

Sir, Sir Michael Grylls, MP (letter, *March 11*), in his potted biography of Norman Lamont's chancellorship, certainly views his performance through rose-tinted spectacles.

He ignores the fact that Mr Lamont initially denied that there was a recession at a time when the whole business world was begging for a substantial cut in interest rates to prevent the recession from deepening. Later, whilst admitting that there were signs of a recession, he was adamant that it would be shallow and short-lived.

Later still he made his notorious remark about the green shoots of recovery, and all the while the economy was plunging into the severest and longest-lasting recession that the country has experienced in 60 years, with thousands of businesses going to the wall and unemployment surging over the three million mark.

Sir Michael may be delighted with Mr Lamont's stewardship, but to many of us he has seemed more like a man totally out of his depth, staggering and blundering from one crisis to another.

Yours faithfully,
ROBIN S. HOWARD,
8 South Street,
Titchfield, Fareham, Hampshire.
March 11.

Business letters, page 27

Honours detached from the job

From Mr Mark Rittner

Sir, I suspect that the promised flood of recommendations for honours (Mr Black's letter, March 8) will very soon require the installation of a data base to store, process and cross-check all the names. Surely we will all then be entitled under the Data Protection Act to inspect our files and establish which of our friends has put our name forward (and which has not).

Yours faithfully,
MARK RITTNER,
40 Canonbury Park South,
Islington, N1.
March 10.

From Dr Tom McLean, CB

Sir, I am a retired senior civil servant who wholly supports the current criticism of honours which go with the job. However the practice has been as rife, if not more so, in the senior ranks of the armed services as in the civil service. It would be wrong to change the practice in one and not in the other.

Yours faithfully,
TOM P. McLEAN,
Kinlochard, Purlieu Wood,
Malvern, Hereford and Worcester.
March 8.

From York Herald

Sir, In response to Mr David Watt (letter, March 8) regarding a buttonhole badge for recipients of honours, may I suggest a small gold or silver oak-leaf badge on a pin to represent all orders of chivalry. This could be worn as a brooch or a tie pin and it would resolve the difficulty of male and female insignia.

Yours faithfully,
PETER SPURRIER,
York Herald,
College of Arms,
Queen Victoria Street, EC4.
March 9.

From Mr Alan Calvert

Sir, May I suggest the following:
Senior military officers: skull and crossbones.
Senior civil servants: broken quill pen.
Politicians: small lyre.

Your servant,
A. CALVERT,
Apartment 20, The Highlands,
118 Edge Lane,
Stretford, Greater Manchester.
March 8.

From His Honour Judge Keith McHale

Sir, Judges do not need knighthoods: they just like their wives to be ladies.

Yours faithfully,
KEITH McHALE,
Oak Lodge, 141 Albemarle Road,
Beckenham, Kent.
March 10.

Factors behind Stock Exchange computer failure

From Mr Ernest F. Smith

Sir, The demise of Taurus at the Stock Exchange (report, March 12) has been on the cards for a long time. Earlier evidence of impending doom was to be seen in the forecast of massive additional costs, and later in the news of extended delays in implementation.

Here was an opportunity for the government to put its privatisation programme into reverse and to offer to the Stock Exchange, at a commercial rate, the services of the Inland Revenue, whose record in the successful introduction of major computer projects has been exemplary.

Meanwhile, is the proposed privatisation of Inland Revenue's information technology (letter from the Inland Revenue Staff Federation, December 2, 1992) so far advanced that we should prepare for a major *computing disaster* at the taxpayers' expense?

Yours truly,
ERNEST SMITH,
Red House, 90 Drift Road,
Clanfield, Hampshire.
March 12.

From the President of the Chartered Engineering Institution for Information Systems Engineers

Sir, The Taurus fiasco comes hard on the heels of other major computer system failures, such as that of the London Ambulance Service last October. There are far too many other major failures which do not achieve quite the same publicity.

A common factor in most of these disasters is that the projects in question have been led by people who are not accountable to the immediately relevant chartered body — i.e., this institution.

It is a matter of astonishment, at least to our members, that boards of directors and their public-sector equivalents should place such vital, expensive and potentially damaging developments in the hands of such people.

Would the same boards entrust the design of a new Stock Exchange building or a new hospital to anyone except a qualified architect, or act on legal advice except from a qualified *barrister or solicitor? Chartered professionals* have not only been obliged to satisfy rigid scrutiny of their qualifications; they are also accountable to a professional body for their conduct.

The public has a right to expect that those who commission major computer systems developments should ensure that the same standards of professionalism are sought and applied as they would require in any other branch of engineering. Anything else is, surely, negligent and irresponsible.

It is time this dismal catalogue of failure, and its commercially damaging and, in certain cases, life-threatening consequences came to an end. An insistence on the use of professionally qualified and accountable information systems engineers would be a major first step in that direction.

I remain, Sir, yours faithfully,
ROGER JOHNSON,
President,
Chartered Engineering Institution for Information Systems Engineers,
PO Box 1454, Station Road,
Swindon, Wiltshire.
March 13.

From Mr Crispin Gascoigne

Sir, You are quite correct in pointing out ("*The bull called Taurus*", leading article, March 12) that the failure of Taurus was due to the project being run by a committee rather than by a single management team with a clearly defined set of objectives.

The real tragedy is that just such a team of countrywide market practitioners and computer technicians had been carefully built up in the 1970s for the installation of the computerised settlement system known as Talisman.

After the successful introduction of Talisman in April 1979, on time and within budget, the seminar members of that team, of which I was the leader, visited the United States to study their computerised transfer and registration systems.

On our return we drew up plans for a comparatively simple book-entry transfer system. However thoughts of a possible "big bang" were already in the air, and such mundane administrative matters were very much of secondary interest. The project was abandoned in the autumn of 1979. As a result, a highly successful team was broken up — never to be reassembled.

I shall never forget that dreadful council meeting at which that decision was received. From that moment any progression towards a fully computerised transfer system, such as Taurus, was doomed to fail. After some 13 years, £75 million in wasted development expenditure and goodness knows how many other lost millions I cannot resist the temptation of saying "I told you so".

Yours faithfully,
CRISPIN GASCOIGNE
(Chairman, Stock Exchange Settlement Services, 1975-80),
The Manor House,
Stanton Harcourt, Oxford.
March 13.

From Mr S. Alan Livesey

Sir, Your City Diary cartoonist ("I hear poor Taurus has a touch of mad cow disease", March 12) is almost correct. In fact Taurus was killed by the virus BSE ANITA: in full, British Senior Executives Are Not IT Aware.

If moves are not made to eradicate this infection much of British industry will be slaughtered — including the financial sector, which hitherto thought it was immune.

Yours faithfully,
S. ALAN LIVESEY,
Chainhurst Farm, Chainhurst,
Marden, Tonbridge, Kent.

Paper chase

From Dr Alan McGowan

Sir, C. Northcote Parkinson (obituary, March 11) spent about a year on the staff of the National Maritime Museum in the 1930s. Nearly 40 years later and long after the death of C. S. Forester, Parkinson produced the spoof biography *The Life and Times of Horatio Hornblower*, in the introduction to which he stated that the Hornblower papers had been deposited in the NMM.

I well remember he was called to the library by an assistant some months later to placate an angry and disbelieving visitor from Calgary who insisted that he had travelled nearly 4,000 miles "just to see them".

Unfortunately the assistant's first response had been "They are not here", which while true was not particularly helpful. The visitor left still convinced that he was being refused permission to see the papers for some dark motive known only to the museum.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN McGOWAN
(Chief Curator, National Maritime Museum, 1984-8),
73 Barnfield Wood Road,
Beckenham, Kent.
March 14.

Press controls

From the Director of the Newspaper Society

Sir, First we had Chris Hopson's single ombudsman for press regulation (Media, March 10), then Donald Trelford's pyramid of ombudsmen (letter, March 12), with regional ombudsmen reporting to the top; those already appointed by national newspapers would presumably serve the ombudsman-in-chief from the surrounding foothills. Thank goodness that Paul Dacre (letter, March 16) has restored some balance to the argument.

I cannot see how either Hopson's or Trelford's suggestion would better serve press regulation, and the essential press freedoms which the process must protect, than does the Press Complaints Commission now established.

Hopson's single ombudsman, served presumably by legal assessors, bears a remarkable similarity to Sir David Calcutt's statutory press court, headed by a judge. Trelford's pyramid would bring with it an inevitable inconsistency of approach to the resolution of complaints.

The press currently has one code of practice and one self-regulatory authority. The authority comprises a broad blend of independent public figures and editors. It administers a code drawn up by editors from all press sectors, who thereby commit themselves and those they represent to its observance. The code continues to evolve from PCC case history. No editor to my knowledge fails to accept the code, or refuses to publish the adjudications arising from any breach of it.

A code and sanctions imposed on the press, such as Hopson and Trelford suggest, has no kinship with self-regulation. It is arbitrary control of press content. Fines and other punishments would presumably need to be severe, to avoid being seen as derisory. Few newspapers would voluntarily accept such a form of self-flagellation. New laws would be needed on which to base the pursuit of such penalties.

The PCC is just two years old. It has won the respect and adherence of publishers and editors across the nation. It needs more time to settle to its task. A solitary arbiter with penal powers, or any system of arbitration ultimately serving such an omnipotent role, would replace self-regulation with a national censor. Some Third World governments would wonder why they had been so soft.

Yours faithfully,
DUGAL NISBET-SMITH, Director,
The Newspaper Society,
Bloomsbury House,
74-77 Great Russell Street, WC1.

From Mr Roper Mead

Sir, May I remind Sir Frank Rogers (letter, March 12) and Sir Nicholas Lloyd (March 13) that in 1969, when the Swedes (who formed the world's first press council in 1916) were faced with the predicament of securing effective self-regulation, their answer was to appoint an ombudsman. They gave their council "bite" and credibility by introducing fines on offending newspapers.

Yours sincerely,
ROPER MEAD
(Assistant Secretary,
Press Council, 1968-76),
186 Chatsworth Court,
Pembroke Road, W8.

Rough with the smooth

From the Chairman of the British Chapter of the Explorers Club

Sir, There seems to be a great deal of nonsense being spoken about England's unshaven cricketers (letters, March 18).

Whether in the Himalayas or the jungle, I have shaved every day for 40 years and felt all the better for it. However, I draw the line at the overpowering after-shave lotion that some go in for. It may attract the ladies, but it also brings on the mosquitoes. We had to evacuate one rather precious fellow, a few years ago, who used the wretched stuff and got attacked by hornets.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN BLASHFORD-SNELL,
Chairman,
The Explorers Club (British Chapter),
Expedition Base, Motcombe,
Nr Shaftesbury, Dorset.
March 18.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 071-782 5046.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 18: The Prince Edward today visited Manchester and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Greater Manchester (Colonel John Timmins).

His Royal Highness, Chairman, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Special Projects Group, this afternoon attended a Luncheon in support of the award at the Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza Midland Hotel where he was received by the Chairman, Central Manchester Development Corporation (Dr John Grigor).

The Prince Edward, Chairman, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Special Projects Group, later reopened the Longsight Youth Centre, Stockport Road, Longsight, and was received by the Lord Mayor of Manchester (Councillor William Egerton).

His Royal Highness afterwards met members of the Lightning Bicycle Courier Company.

The Prince Edward, Patron, the Royal Exchange Theatre Company, this evening attended a Performance of "Comedy of Errors" followed by a dinner and was received by the Chairman (Mr Alex Bernstein).

Lieutenant Colonel Sean O'Dwyer was in attendance.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
March 18: The Prince of Wales, Patron, London and Quadrant Housing Trust, this morning visited trust property in Kennington.

Mr David Landale was in attendance.

His Royal Highness this afternoon departed from Royal Air Force Northolt for Germany.

KENSINGTON PALACE
March 18: The Princess of Wales, Patron, Centrepoint Soho, this morning attended the Centrepoint and Telethon Conference on the Children Act, Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, Westminster, London SW1.

Mr Patrick Jephson was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
March 18: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon this evening attended a Reception given by the United Kingdom Central Council for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting at 23 Portland Place, London, W1, and unveiled the Coat of Arms which has been granted to the Council.

The Lady Elizabeth Cavendish was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
March 18: The Duchess of Gloucester today visited Sandcastle Nursery at Sands County Middle School, High Wycombe, and later opened Chiltern View Brendoncare Home, Stone, near Aylesbury. Her Royal Highness was received on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Buckinghamshire (Commander the Hon John Fremantle, RN).

Mrs Howard Page was in attendance.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
March 18: The Duke of Kent, Grand Master, this morning attended a meeting of the Officers of the Order of Saint Michael and Saint George at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Whitehall, London, SW1.

Commander Roger Walker, RN was in attendance.

The Duke of Kent, Patron, Endeavour Training, this afternoon received the Founder, Mr Richard Allcock, OBE.

The Duchess of Kent, Patron, Helen House Hospice, today received Sister Frances Dominica, Director, Mrs Edith Anthem on her retirement, and Mrs Mary Thompson on taking the position of Head Nurse.

The Duchess of Kent this evening attended a Fund Raising Concert in aid of the late Lord Cheshire's World Memorial Fund for Disaster Relief at Westminster Cathedral, London, SW1.

Mrs David Napier was in attendance.

Today's royal engagements

The Queen, as Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Army Ordnance Corps, will attend the farewell parade at Deepcut at 10.45; and will visit the Guards Depot at Pirbright at 2.55.

Prince Edward, as Chairman of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Pegasus Project, will attend the 1993 annual lunch at Armourers' Hall at 12.40.

The Princess Royal, as President of the British Knitting and Clothing Export Council, will visit YKK(UK), Whitehouse Industrial Estate, Runcorn, at 11.00; will visit Halcyon Belt Company, Dairy House Farm, Clive Lane, Winsford, at 12.15; and will visit the David Lewis Centre, Mill Lane, Warford, near Alderley Edge, at 1.10.

The Duchess of Kent, as Colonel-in-Chief of the Army Catering Corps, will attend the final dinner for past and present officers at St Omer Barracks, Aldershot, at 7.30.

Meeting

Whitworth Society
A commemoration meeting of the Whitworth Society was held yesterday at Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine. Mr R.A. Clarke presided.

Sir Evelyn Delves Broughton, Bt

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Sir Evelyn Delves Broughton, 12th Bt of Broughton, will be held in the Guards Chapel, Wellington Barracks, on Tuesday, April 20, at 4.30pm.

Reception

United Kingdom Central Council for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting
Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, attended a reception held yesterday at 23 Portland Place, London, W1, to mark the Granting of Arms to the United Kingdom Central Council for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting and to mark the end of the current Members' term of office. Dame Audrey Emerton, DBE, Chairman of the Council was host.

Luncheon

British Consultants Bureau
Sir Robin Renwick, HM Ambassador to Washington, was the guest speaker at a luncheon of the executive committee of the British Consultants Bureau held yesterday at the St Ermin's Hotel. Mr Peter Walters, chairman, presided.



SIMON WALKER

Time for a filling: Kirsten Suenson, a conservator for English Heritage, attends to some tooth decay in a unicorn on a royal coat of arms made in about 1680 from two pieces of elm. The coat of arms is among more than 5,000 objects dating from the Tudor period kept in an architectural study centre near the Ranger's House at Greenwich Park, southeast London, which will be open to the public from April 1

Birthdays today

Mr D.R.Y. Bluck, former chairman, British Tourist Authority, 66; Sir Nigel Broomfield, diplomat, 56; Mr Michael Chapman, racehorse trainer, 55; Lady Georgina Coleridge, 77; Dr J.D. Davies, former director, Polytechnic of Wales, 64; Professor Ronald Girdwood, clinical pathologist, 76; the Right Rev Ronald Gordon, former Bishop of Lambeth, 66; Viscount Hill, 62; Vice-Admiral Sir Norman King, 60; Sir David Lumsden, principal, Royal Academy of Music, 65; Mr Patrick McGoohan, actor, 65; Dame Elizabeth Maconchy, composer, 86; Sir Peter Masefield, aviation expert, 79; Mr Philip Mason, writer, 87; the Earl of Morton, 66; Mr David Nicholson, racehorse trainer, 54; Lord Plant of Highfield, 48; Lieutenant-General Sir Alan Reay, 56; Sir Kenneth Robinson, former chairman, Arts Council of Great Britain, 82; Mr Philip Roth, author, 60; Mr Michael Rothenstein, painter and printmaker, 85; Sir Leonard Scopes, diplomat, 81; Lady Sempill, 73.

Moreton Hall, Shropshire

Scholarship Awards
11+ Major Awards: Abigail Goddard, Moreton Hall; Rowena Stanworth, Sunny Bank Preparatory School.
Other Awards: Annabel Allen, Moor Park; Candice Bloom, Edenhurst; Sheona Burns (Art), Haylett Grange; Susannah Wapshott (Music), Packwood Haugh.
12+ Major Award: Josephine Davies, Packwood Haugh.
Other Awards: Miranda Gallimore, Moor Park; Megan Harper, The Elms; Jenny Lindstrand, Packwood Haugh.
13+ Major Awards: Mary Matthews, St Dominic's Priory; Jessica Moreland, St Dominic's Priory.
Other Awards: Belinda Barnes, Queen's School, Chester; Ellen Parry, Moreton Hall; Megan Wheeler, Oswestry Junior School.

Middle Temple

R.U. Thomas, QC, and H.I.L. Laddie, QC, have been Called to the Bench of the Middle Temple.

Dinners

Lord Mayor of Westminster
The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Westminster were hosts at the annual reception and dinner of the City of Westminster held last night at the Savoy Hotel. Among those present were:
Members of the Diplomatic Corps, members of both Houses of Parliament, representatives from the Church, HM Judiciary, HM Forces, the emergency services, the arts, commerce and voluntary and charitable organisations, Greater London mayors and other friends of Westminster.

Danish-UK Chamber of Commerce
Mr Henning Christophersen, Vice-President of the Commission of the European Communities, was the guest of honour and speaker at the annual dinner of the Danish-UK Chamber of Commerce held last night at Skinners' Hall. Mr James G. Davis, chairman, was the host. The Danish Ambassador was among the guests.

Chartered Association of Certified Accountants
Mr D.J. Bishop, President of the Chartered Association of Certified Accountants, presided at the annual dinner held last night at Guildhall. The Hon William Waldegrave, MP, also spoke.
Among the guests were:
The Ambassador of Slovakia, the High Commissioners for Swaziland, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Malta, Zambia, Nigeria and Malaysia, the Acting High Commissioners for Kenya and Ghana, the First Secretary of the Embassy of the Czech Republic, the Commercial Counsellor of the Polish Embassy, the Education Attaché of the Botswana High Commission, Lord Barnett (vice-chairman, BBC), Sir Anthony Battishill (chairman, Board of Inland Revenue), Baroness David (Opposition Spokeswoman for Education, House of Lords) and Mrs F.A. Heaton (director-general, Takeover Panel).

Gardeners' Company
Mr D.E. Dowlen, Master of the Gardeners' Company, assisted by Mr E.M. Upward and Mr N.A. Chalmers, Wardens, presided at the Spring court dinner held last night at Vintners' Hall. Lord Sandys, the Bulgarian Ambassador and Mr I.G.A. Peters also spoke.

European Atlantic Group
The Secretary-General of the Commonwealth was the speaker at a meeting of the European-Atlantic Group held yesterday at the House of Commons, by courtesy of Mr Peter Temple-Morris, MP. The Earl of Selkirk, KT, QC, presided. Sir Peter Marshall presided at a dinner-discussion held afterwards at the St Ermin's Hotel. The Earl of Bessborough, Lord Bonham-Carter, Lord Ennals, Mr Giles Radice, MP, Mr Richard Spring, MP, and Lord St John of Bletso also spoke. Among others present were:
Ambassadors, High Commissioners and other members of the diplomatic corps and chairmen of Commonwealth associations.

The Royal Society

At a meeting of the Royal Society the following Fellows were elected:
Professor A Astbury, Professor A D Baddeley, Professor F M Burdekin, Dr T H Clutton-Brock, Professor D G Crighton, Dr R A Crowther, Professor H Dalton, Dr G Dearnaley, Dr M J Evans, Dr I Fleming, Professor L E Fraenkel, Professor B W Stillman, Professor A J Thomson, Professor P J Twin, Professor A E Walsby, Professor J W White.

Baptism

The infant son of Mr and Mrs Andrew Cole was baptised Oliver Andrew Donoghue by the Rev Dr Paul McPartlan during Mass at the Church of Our Lady of Victories, Kensington, on March 14. The godparents are Mrs Marianne Aitken and Mr Robert Wood.

Fan Makers' Company

The following have been elected officers of the Fan Makers' Company for the ensuing year:
Master, Mr J.R.P. Hammond; Free Warden, Mr G.D.E. Bilton; Foreign Warden, Mr M.J. Crispin.

The company's bursaries at the Royal College of Art have been awarded to Mrs Janet Stoyl and Miss Georgina Noble. Mr Keith Calder is the winner of the graduation prize from the South Bank University Environmental Engineering Department.

Appointments

John Anthony Dyson, QC, to be a Justice of the High Court, assigned to the Queen's Bench Division.

Ian James Campbell Trigger and Mary Carol Amri Hagen to be Circuit Judges, Mr Trigger on the Northern Circuit, Mrs Hagen on the Western Circuit.

Church in Wales

Diocese of St Asaph
The Rev John Berry Thelwell, Vicar of Gwernaffield with Llanferres to be Rector of Hawarden.
The Rev William Terence Charles Lackey, Vicar of Gwenyllt, to be Rector of Treflannt.

Diocese of Bangor
The Rev Saunders Davies, Vicar of Dewi Sant, Cardiff, to be Rector of Criccieth, and Archdeacon of Merioneth.

Diocese of Swansea and Brecon
The Rev Canon John Harris, Vicar of Maindee, Newport, Gwent and Rural Dean of Newport, to be Dean of Brecon and Vicar of Brecon St Mary with Battle and Llanddew.

Freemen of the City of London

The following have been installed officers of the Guild of Freemen of the City of London for the ensuing year:
Master, Sir Clifford Chetwood; Senior Warden, Sir Colin Cole; Renter Warden, Vice-Admiral Sir Peter Buchanan; Junior Warden, Mr Alderman Clive H. Martin; Under Warden, Lord Finsberg.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: William Bradford, Pilgrim father, baptised this day, Austerfield, near Doncaster, 1590; Georges de la Tour, painter, Lunéville, France, 1593; Tobias Smollett, novelist, Vale of Leven, Dumbartonshire, 1721; David Livingstone, explorer, Low Blantyre, Lanarkshire, 1813; Sir Richard Burton, explorer and scholar, Torquay, 1821; William Allingham, poet, Ballyshannon, Donegal, 1824; William Jennings Bryan, political orator, Salem, Illinois, 1860; Sergei Diaghilev, impresario, Novgorod, Russia, 1872; Sir John Marshall, archaeologist, Chester, 1876.

DEATHS: Thomas William Daniell, landscape painter, London, 1840; William Henry Playfair, architect, Edinburgh, 1857; Arthur James Balfour, 1st Earl of Balfour, Prime Minister 1902-5, Woking, Surrey, 1930; Edgar Rice Burroughs, novelist, Encino, California, 1950.

According to Ptolemy, the Babylonians observed the first recorded eclipse, 721BC.

Britain's first planetarium opened at Mme Tussaud's, London, 1958.

University news

Oxford
Jesus College
To a four-year official fellowship and tutorship in French from October 1: Dr Alison M. Finch.

Cambridge
Dr John Mayne, a researcher in the Department of Material Science and Metallurgy, has been awarded the Cavallaro gold medal by the University of Ferrara, Italy, for his work on the inhibition of corrosion.

Darwin College
Elected into official fellowship: Patricia Kruth, Etyoshi Nagai.

King's College
Sandeep Baliga has been elected into a junior unofficial fellowship in the External Research Fellowship Competition in Economics. Markus Vinzent has been elected into a senior research fellowship in the Research Centre Project on Early Christianity.

Forthcoming marriages

Dr C.J. Aldrich and Miss N.J. Chalmers
The engagement is announced between Clive, eldest son of Mr Frederick Aldrich, of Greenwich, London, and Mrs Sybella Hubbard-Atkins, of Wakefield, West Yorkshire, and Nicola, daughter of Mr and Mrs Andrew Chalmers, of Peldon, Essex.

Mr N.D.V. Allen and Miss J.A. Lusty
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, son of Mr and Mrs Vance Allen, of Edinburgh, and Alexandra, elder daughter of Dr and Mrs Tim Lusty, of Cumnor, Oxford.

Mr S.A.N. Collinson and Miss N.J. Smith
The engagement is announced between Simon, son of Mr and Mrs A.H. Collinson, and Nicola, daughter of Mr B. Smith and Mrs Y. Chamberlain.

Mr D.C. Ferguson and Miss S.M.M. Buchanan
The engagement is announced between David Charles, son of Mr and Mrs D.C. Ferguson, of Toronto, Canada, and Samantha, only daughter of Mr R.I. Buchanan, of Gloucestershire, and Mrs W.B. Kirby, of Hampshire.

Major S.D. Gibson and Miss S. van Heyningen
The engagement is announced between Major Stevyn Gibson, MBE, RE, only son of Major and Mrs Kip Gibson, of Nessdiffe, Shropshire, and Suzanne, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Leo van Heyningen, of Kimbolton, Cambridgeshire.

Mr A.C. King and Miss C.L. Michaelson
The engagement is announced between Anthony, son of Mr and Mrs T.T. King, of Brentwood, Essex, and Cathy, daughter of Mr and Mrs R.C.B. Michaelson, of Weybridge, Surrey.

Mr R.B. Nunn and Miss J.C. Wildenberg
The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Mr Barry Nunn and Mrs Sheila Nunn, and Judith, daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard Wildenberg, of Guildford, Surrey.

Major G. Ritson, retd, and Miss R.E. Mason
The engagement is announced between Geoffrey, son of the late Mr and Mrs C. Ritson, and Ruth, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs F. Mason, of Tonbridge, Kent.

Mr R.I.C. Ross and Miss S.F.A. Edworthy
The engagement is announced between Rory, second son of Mr and Mrs David Ross, of The Little Boltons, Chelsea, and Sarah, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Patrick Edworthy, of Ropley, Hampshire.

Mr D. Rudling and Miss A.J. Round-Turner
The engagement is announced between David, only son of Mr and Mrs John Rudling, of Eccleshall, Staffordshire, and Jane, only daughter of Captain and Mrs John Round-Turner, of Newmarket, Suffolk.

Marriage

Mr C.R.S. Richardson and Miss K.L.G. Batten
The marriage, followed by a service of blessing in the Chapel Royal within HM Tower of London, took place on Tuesday, March 16, between Mr Charles Richardson, eldest son of Lieutenant General Sir Robert Richardson and the late Lady (Maureen) Richardson and Miss Katharine Batten, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Bryan Batten.

Lincoln's Inn

John Beresford William McDonnell, QC, has been elected a Bencher.

TEL: 071 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

FAX: 071 481 9313

The light is among you still, but not for long. Go on your way while you have the light, so that darkness may not overtake you. He who journeys in the dark does not know where he is going. St. John 12:35 (REB)

BIRTHS

ADDE - On 13th March, to Annie (née Fowler) and Svante, a daughter Louise Christine Elizabeth.

BEARD - On Saturday March 13th 1993 to Phillippa (née Webb) and Robert, a son, George Frederick, a brother for Thomas.

BRETT - On March 9th to Joanna (née Biddle) and Paul, a son Edmund Paul, a brother for George.

BROUGHTON - On 15th March at St. Thomas' Hospital to Mary (née Bevan) and Tim, a daughter, Octavia Giselle.

CARRUTHERS - Peter and Judith (née Bulman) give thanks to God for a son, Asher James Mitchell, born Sunday February 21st.

CLARKE - On 14th March to Jayne (née Bunkler) and Richard, a son, Harry David, a brother to Alexandra.

CLAYTON - See Hatfield.

DARE - On February 27th, to Clarissa (née Wagstaff) and Phillip, a daughter, Eleanor Louise, a sister for Isabelle.

HAMWEE - On March 8th at The Portland Hospital, to Josefina (née Stabile) and Robert, a lovely son, Christopher William, a brother for Andrew Mark.

HANDY - On 1st March, to Penny (née Rogers) and Stephen, a son, Hugh Robert Lyle, a brother for William.

HATFIELD - On March 16th at The Portland Hospital, to Deborah (née Clayton-Payne) and Paul, a son, Henry, a brother to Polly.

JONES - On 15th March, Douglas, a son to Derek and Susan of Horsham and grandson to Gerard and Margaret Sandeman of Edinburgh.

KENWORTHY - On March 15th to Kristina (née Wethered) and Jonathan, a son William Adam Jonathan, a brother for Maia.

LEACH - On 13th March to Fiona (née Esdaile) and Robin, a son, Charles Anthony Langley.

BIRTHS

MURPHY - On March 17th at The Portland Hospital to Shari (née McCleish) and Michael, a gorgeous son, Lachlan Michael John, brother for Callum.

PRICE - On 2nd March 1993, to Catherine (née Evans) and Martin, a son, Robert John Llewelyn.

ROBSON - On 17th March, to Chloe and Maurice, a daughter, Natasha Lilly, a sister for Jamie.

SAMS - On March 15th, at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, to Amanda (née Knott) and David, a daughter Eleanor Harriet Tilly, a beautiful sister for Abigail.

WILLIAMS - On March 14th to Caroline (née Edwards) and Lance, a daughter, Lara Olivia.

DEATHS

ADAMCZEWSKI - Bernhard Franz Martin. Deeply mourned by his brother Hans and his family. Deeply mourned by his son Simon, his daughter Liza, and his grandchildren Joseph, Saul, Eve and Jonathan. Deeply mourned by his son Konrad, his daughter-in-law Helene and their daughters Alice and Adela. Deeply mourned and gratefully remembered by Madeleine Westrop and her family. Deeply mourned by Claire Slipper and Lucy Dilworth and their families.

ADAMCZEWSKI - Bernhard Franz Martin, on 15th March, after surgery, faced with extraordinary courage. Greatly loved and peacefully missed by Jillian, his consort and partner for 25 happy years.

ALEXANDER - On March 14th, 1993 peacefully after a short illness, Victor Joseph Louis, beloved husband of Stella, father of Nigel. Service at St. Philip's Church, Denridge on Monday, March 22nd at 12.15 pm, followed by cremation at Robin Hood Crematorium, Solihull, at 1 pm. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, to Warren Pearl Hospice, Solihull.

BALDING - Doreen Wanda, died peacefully at home on Tuesday, 16th March 1993. Funeral Service 11.30 am at Little Wilbraham Parish Church on Tuesday 23rd March. No flowers by request. Donations, if desired, made payable to R.N.L.I. may be sent to Cambridge Funeral Service, 617 Newmarket Road, Cambridge.

BULL - Arthur 'Johnny'. Peacefully at Allt y Mynydd, Lanybyder, Dyfed, aged 97, on March 15th. Veteran of Gallipoli, Lale of York and Cosforth.

DONALDSON - Peacefully at Cameron Hospital on March 16th 1993, aged 79 years, Professor Emeritus Gordon Donaldson, C.B.E., H.M. Historiographer in Scotland. Service at St. Mary's Cathedral, Palmerston Place, Edinburgh, on Monday 22nd March at 1.00 p.m., to which all friends are invited. Enquiries to William Purves (Funeral Directors) Ltd., 4 Rosebery Street, Edinburgh. 031 228 4499.

FANE - On Tuesday 16th March, H.F.Brien Fane, C.M.G., O.B.E., dearly loved husband of Stella, father of Kate and Hilary, grandfather of Sam, Jody, Toby and Tom. Funeral Service at St. Alphege Church, Solihull at 1.45 pm on Monday 22nd March, followed by Cremation at 2.30 pm at Robin Hood Crematorium. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to The Stroke Association.

FORBES-DUNLOP - On March 15th, peacefully in hospital, Katharina Forbes-Dunlop aged 100, former headmistress of Brondesbury-at-Stocks, Aldbury. Funeral Service at St Luke, Chelsea, on Monday March 22nd at 11 am. No flowers, donations if desired to The K. Forbes-Dunlop Scholarship Fund at Womens Career Foundation, 2 Waichouse, Blackburn, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN5 9TP. Interment Service at Winchelsea, Sussex, on Tuesday March 23rd at 2pm.

GOLDING - On 16th March in hospital, Reginald Solomon of Sidcup, Kent, formerly of Bellasgate, St. Catherine, Jamaica, West Indies. Funeral service on Tuesday 23rd March at Eltham Crematorium, Eltham, SE9 at 2.00pm. Sadly missed by his wife Lettie, his children, and family.

GREATWOOD - On March 16th, suddenly whilst abroad on holiday, Margaret Frances Ned. Funeral arrangements later.

HOOPER - Margaret Lillian (née Carpenter) of 42 Wyndham Road, Bridgewater, Somerset. A much respected beloved and caring mother of Brian and John, devoted grandmother of Carolyn and Grace, sister of Wynn, Frederick and the late Evelyn, died on Saturday 13th February 1993 at Blake Hospital, Bridgewater in her 79th year, after a 19 month unflinching fight against Cancer, a brave fighter will be sadly missed by Brian and our friends. Her chosen funeral and Thanksgiving Service for Margaret's life will be held at The Methodist Church, Monmouth Street, Bridgewater on Friday 26th March 1993 at 11.30am, followed by Interment at St John's Cemetery, Bridgewater. Flowers welcome and may be sent c/o Bridgewater Cooperative Funeral Service, 6-8 St Johns Street, Bridgewater.

HUNTER - On March 17th peacefully in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Kings Lynn, after a short illness, Margaret, aged 79 years of North Creake, formerly of Kings Langley, Herts and Wells-Next-The-Sea, Norfolk. Beloved wife of the late Harold Lyle Hunter, loving mother of Felicity Freund (USA), mother-in-law of Alan and grandmother of Heather and Victoria. Will be sadly missed by all family and friends. Funeral Service to be held at St. Margaret's Church, Cley on Wednesday, March 24th at 2.30 pm. Flowers or, if desired, donations for St. Margaret's Church, Cley, all letters and enquiries to S.T. Sutton Funeral Directors, Burnt Street, Wells-Next-The-Sea, Norfolk. Tel: 0328 710301.

KAUNTZE - On 18th March 1993, Katharine Margaret Kauntze (née Moodie), aged 88, after a long illness; much loved wife of Ralph Kauntze. Funeral private.

KERR - Sheila A. On 16th March, after a long illness, Headmistress of Surbiton High School for Girls, Surrey, 1947-64. Funeral at Randalls Park Crematorium, Leatherhead at 3 pm Wednesday 24th March.

DEATHS

NUSSEY - Dr Adolf Marcuse, on 17th March 1993, peacefully and among friends in his 89th year. Much loved father of Ian, Jane and Susan and grandfather of Jane, Rachel, Jessica and Anna. Funeral Service at Lodge Hill Crematorium, Woolley Park Rd, Birmingham at 1 pm on Thursday 25th March. No flowers please, but donations if desired to St Mary's Hospice, Selly Park, Birmingham.

SAUNDERS - On 16th March 1993, peacefully at her home in Newton Harcourt, Leicestershire, Patricia Anne Saunders aged 44 years, the dearly loved wife of Michael, dear mother of Julian and Samantha and loving grandmother of Jack. Funeral Service at the parish church of St. Luke, Newton Harcourt on Monday March 22nd at 11.30am. Cremation following at Gilroes Crematorium, Leicester. All flowers and further inquiries please to Glass and Gutteridge, Funeral Directors of Leicester. Tel: 0533 516117

SELLON - On March 18th Gwendolen Kathleen aged 82, widow of David Dearsley Sellon. Private funeral at Eastbourne Crematorium on Thursday March 25th at 12 noon. No flowers, donations if desired to Friends of the Lake District, c/o Mounsey F/D, 31 Devonshire Road, Bexhill-on-Sea.

SETTEN - On March 16th 1993 at his home, Peter Westcott Setten M.B.E., of Leintwardine. Funeral Service at Ensdrey Crematorium, Shrewsbury on Wednesday March 24th at 1.20 pm. Family flowers only, donations if desired to R.N.L.I. A Memorial Service will be held at Holy Trinity Church, Llandrindod Wells on Tuesday March 23rd at 3 pm. Enquiries 0647 628884.

VALENTINE - Martin Arthur Joseph, dear father of Jonathan, Sally, Thomas, Mary, died peacefully on Wednesday 17th March, 1993 at Goring-on-Thames.

DEATHS

WHITE - On March 16th, peacefully in hospital after a short illness Allan Frederick Tinsdale, aged 77 years. Much loved husband of Angela, loving father of Madeleine, Desiree and David, grandfather of Tracey, Jellan, Rosamund, Lucy, Paul, Takila and Tamara and great grandfather of Toby. Funeral Service at St Andrew's Church, Poolbrook, Malvern on Wednesday 24th March at 2.00 pm. Family flowers only please, but donations if desired to Save The Children Fund. Any enquiries to F.W. Spilsbury, Funeral Directors. Tel: 0684 892777.

WHITE - On 16th March, at home Evelyn Bartholomew White, beloved mother of Patsy and Susan, grandmother and great grandmother. Funeral St. David's Moreton-in-Marsh, Tuesday 23rd March at 2 pm. Family flowers only, donations to The Treasurer, Camden Home Nursing, Magnolia House, Leysbourne, Chipping Camden, Glos.

WILKINSON - On March 12th 1993, peacefully at Burrowbeck Grange Nursing Home, Lancaster, Ruth, dearly loved aunt and sister-in-law. Funeral Service at Lancaster Crematorium on Friday March 19th at 3 pm. Donations to Motor Neurone Disease Association.

WINTER - On March 18th 1993 peacefully at a nursing home Phyllis Edith Winter M.A., the beloved sister of Ruth of The Archivage, 157 Maidford, Christchurch, Dorset. Headmistress of The Birkenhead High School for Girls, G.P.D.S.T. (1952-1963). Funeral Service at Christchurch Priory on Thursday 25th March 1993 at 2.30 pm. Family flowers only but if desired donations in her memory to The Teachers Benevolent Fund c/o Colin Hayley Funeral Service, 81-83 Old Milton Road, New Milton, Hants. Tel: 0425 625000.

WRAY - Major Ian Frank M.B.E., R.M., (Rtd). On March 17th, suddenly at home in South Walsham, beloved husband of Pat, father of Josephine and Alistair, grandfather of Theo and Emily. Funeral Service at St Mary's Church, South Walsham at 12 pm on Friday March 26th, followed by cremation at St Faiths Crematorium at 1 pm. Family flowers only please, but donations if desired made payable to the R.N.L.I. c/o John Gedge & Sons Funeral Directors, Garden Road, Blofield, Norwich, NR13 4JL.

WRIGHT - Peacefully on 17th March 1993 after many years of illness bravely borne Sidney Lawrence Wright C.B.E., M.D., F.R.C.P., D.P.H., formerly Honorary Physician to the Queen and Medical Officer of Health for the Borough of Croydon, as well as beloved husband of Myra and father of Peter and Allan.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

WEBB - A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of David Evan Webb will be held at St Mary's Church, Bytleet, Surrey on Friday April 23rd at 3 pm.

IN MEMORIAM — PRIVATE

CAREW POLE - A Memorial Service for Sir John Carew will be held in The Guards Chapel Wellington Barracks SW1, on Tuesday 20th April at noon. Anyone wishing to park in the Barracks, for this service is asked to contact: Regiment Head Quarters, Coldstream Guards by 16th April.

DEEVES - Thomas William, CMG, CBE, MC and Bar, March 19 1893 - Sept 11 1977. Matthew 25: 34 - 40.

PILGRIM - Angélique Helen Mary, died 19th March 1992, aged 28 years. "I love darling, will never die." - Love always Mum.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BARAN Bottoms in - Forever! All my love, Jessica

SKI FREE USA! Publisher says freebies/discounts on 1994 Alps/Americas rare in Oct93 ST3311

BIRTHDAYS

JOHN - Happy Birthday, don't you forget about me! I'm "Crazy For You", with love your glittering prize.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

EX-SERVICES MENTAL WELFARE SOCIETY
We honour those who gave their lives for our country. But what of those who shared the same horrors and survived... their minds shattered.
The Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society are there for men and women from the services with varying degrees of mental illness in our complement homes and veterans' home.
A donation now or a legacy later will help those who have given their most precious gift after the fight.
COMBAT STRESS
Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society
Broadway House, The Broadway, Wimbledon SW19 1RL Tel: 081-543 6333

ANNOUNCEMENTS

AMY QUIRKE
I will be in London April 6th - April 11th. And would love to visit to you or just talk to you.
Please phone me collect or write to me in the USA or Please Reply to Box No 1461
GRANDPA B.

MAKING YOUR WILL?
Please remember Parkinson's Disease Society. Men and women all over the world suffer from Parkinson's Disease, over 100,000 in this country alone. There is no known cure. Researchers need your help. Help us ease the burden and find the cure for Parkinson's Disease with a donation and remember us when making your Will.
Parkinson's Disease Society
22 Upper Woburn Place, London WC1H 0RA
To: Parkinson's Disease Society, 22 Upper Woburn Place, London WC1H 0RA
☐ I enclose a donation of £.....
☐ Please send me your Will leaflet.
Name
Address
Postcode TT
Data Protection Act: We may occasionally wish to contact you about our work. If you would prefer that we do not, please tick the box ☐
Patron: HRH The Princess of Wales Charity Reg. No. 258197

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OBITUARIES

HELEN HAYES

Helen Hayes, American stage and screen actress, died on March 17 aged 92. She was born in Washington on October 10, 1900.



Helen Hayes as Mary Stewart in a 1933 production of the play *Mary of Scotland*

FORTUNATELY for American audiences it took Helen Hayes 30 years to discover that she was allergic to the dust that resides backstage in theatres. By that time she had appeared in more than 70 major Broadway productions and had been acknowledged as "the first lady of the American theatre". She appeared in London in 1948 in the first production in Britain of Tennessee Williams's *The Glass Menagerie* but she was comparatively little known in this country until the arrival of such films as *Anastasia* (1956) and the first *Airport* (1969), for which — after a 15-year break from the screen — she won an Oscar for best supporting actress.

Barely 5ft tall and 7 stone in weight, Helen Hayes was one of the smallest, as well as one of the finest, American actresses. In spite of her tiny frame she had a massive talent that enabled her to bring a commanding presence to classical and historical roles. One of her greatest triumphs was in Maxwell Anderson's *Victoria Regina* (1935) in which she portrayed 80 years of Queen Victoria's life in a majestic two-and-a-half hour performance, filling her mouth with cotton wool in the last scene to age her voice. She also appeared, notably, as Cleopatra in Bernard Shaw's *Caesar & Cleopatra* (1925), and Mary Stewart in *Mary of Scotland* (1933).

Her film career began in 1917 and in 1931 she won an Oscar for best actress for her role in *The Sin of Madelon Claudet*, which was written by her husband, Charles MacArthur. She later won three Tony awards for her stage work. A television Emmy, in 1952, was for no specific performance but followed a season in which she appeared in three live drama productions. The unlikeliest of her awards was a recording-industry Grammy in 1976 for a record on which she read the US Bill of Rights. "Duller reading you never heard, but I was thrilled," she said.

In later life, like many veteran character actresses, she found useful employment as Miss Marple in a series of films for American television based on the Agatha Christie thrillers.

The daughter of a minor official in Theodore Roosevelt's administration, Helen Hayes was little more than a toddler when she was sent to a dancing school to correct pigeon-toes. Appearing in a school play she was spotted by a Broadway producer, Lew Fields, who said: "Tell the mother of that child, if she ever wants to go on the stage bring her to me." Her mother did.

Hayes made her professional debut at the age of five at the National Theatre, Washington, playing Prince Charles in *The Royal Family*. A number of child roles followed in the US capital before she made her Broadway bow at the age of nine in Fields's production of *Old Dutch*.

She earned a degree from the Sacred Heart Academy in Washington in 1917 and then went back to New York to star in a series of Broadway productions. By the mid-1920s, she had become one of the Great White Way's most sought-after actresses.

In 1928 she married Charles MacArthur, a playwright and screenwriter (with Ben Hecht) of *The Front Page*; and when he decided to pursue his writing career in Hollywood, she went with him even though she had always hated the idea of making films.

After the success of *The Sin of Madelon Claudet* she went on to make five more films including *Arrowsmith* (1931) with Ronald Colman and *A Farewell to Arms* (with Gary Cooper, 1932). She later claimed, however, never to have been happy making films at that time and left Hollywood in 1934, returning with relief to Broadway, and noting: "I don't think I'm very good in pictures, and I have this beautiful dream that I am elegant on stage."

In 1935 came *Victoria Regina* in which she starred for 517 performances on Broadway, winning the Drama League of New York medal for the most distinguished performance during the play's first 12 months. She then played the role more than 400 times on tour. She enjoyed sustained Broadway success in very contrasted work, regularly bringing the whimsical comedies of J. M. Barrie to American audiences while also being a notable Viola in a 1940 *Twelfth Night*.

Hayes's stage success was such that four of the plays she appeared in ran for a total of nearly 11 years on Broadway. These were *Regina* (4½ years), *Harriet* — a portrait of the life of Harriet Beecher Stowe — (3½ years) *Twelfth Night* (1½ years) and *Ladies and Gentlemen* (1 year).

She won her first Tony in 1947 for *Happy Birthday*; the second came in 1958 for *Time Remembered* and the third in 1980 was in recognition of lifetime achievement. In the 1950s she returned to Hollywood, appearing most notably as the dowager empress in *Anastasia* (1956).

One of perhaps only a dozen actresses to have had a theatre named after them, Helen Hayes shared only with Dame Flora Robson the distinction of outliving her own building which was torn down in 1982 to make way for new buildings. In the event, a neighbouring theatre took over the honour of being called the Helen Hayes.

In 1961 Hayes starred as Mrs Antrobus in Thornton Wilder's *The Skin of our Teeth* on a State Department tour of 13 European capitals and Israel.

Her private life was marked by the tragic death from polio, at the age of 19, of her only daughter Mary, shortly before she was due to open on Broadway in a play with her mother. However an adopted son, James MacArthur, became familiar as a television star of *Hawaii Five-O*.

It was in the early 1970s that Helen Hayes announced her retirement from the stage due to asthma, aggravated by the dust and paint of scenery. Her final stage role was as Mary Tyrone in *Long Day's Journey Into Night* in Washington where she had made her first appearance 70 years earlier.

As she entered her nineties Helen Hayes continued to commute to film and television studios in New York and Hollywood for a thriving late-life career which was sparked by her success in *Airport*. In 1981 she was awarded a Kennedy Center honor for lifetime achievement and was one of ten American artists commemorated on a gold medallion issued by the US Treasury Department. She published two volumes of memoirs and a guidebook to home tapestry, and endowed several scholarships in both acting and playwriting. In so far as the American theatre ever acknowledged its own royalty, Helen Hayes was that royalty. Her husband died in 1956.

MUHAMMAD KHAN JUNEJO

Muhammad Khan Junejo, prime minister of Pakistan from 1985 to 1988, died of cardiac failure resulting from leukaemia at Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, on March 17 aged 60. He was born in the Sind province of what was then northwest India, on August 18, 1932.

WHEN President Zia ul Haq appointed Muhammad Khan Junejo as Pakistan's first civilian prime minister after eight years of martial law, it was widely assumed that the new premier would be little more than the general's poodle

Junejo seemed more than usually bereft of the qualities which go to make a politician. A down-to-earth Sind farmer and feudal landlord, he appeared to have no great vision of Pakistan's destiny. He shunned publicity. He was such a poor speaker that whole public meetings had been known to sink into the arms of Morpheus when he addressed them. Humour was foreign to him and a witticism had never been heard to pass his lips. He was at the opposite pole from that represented by figures like the charismatic former prime minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, his glamorous and equally charismatic daughter Benazir or even the autocratic Zia.

Certainly the first speech he made to the assembly did nothing to dispel the reputation that had preceded him. Taking, as it did, remedies for land waterlogging and water salinity as its major thesis, it was a performance of unexampled dullness.

But over the next three years Junejo was to surprise his detractors. If he never seriously troubled the president's total ascendancy, he did at least assert himself enough to create surprising friction between head of government and head of state.

Lack of a political power-base was, in the end, his undoing. And though, after the ending of martial law in 1986, he lifted the 20-year-old state of emergency and was able to oversee a degree of political and press freedom, this process never went anything like deep enough to enable him to oppose Zia's final dismissal of him and his government in May 1988.

Junejo was educated at St Patrick's School, Karachi, before coming to England to study at Hastings Agricultural Institute. Returning to Pakistan, he entered politics at the age of 21, joining the Pakistan Muslim League and winning election to the Sind provincial assembly. In the meantime he continued to till the family acres.

In 1963 he was appointed a minister in the West Pakistan cabinet, but with the arrival of Zia as the steward of Pakistan's fortunes after his coup of 1977, Junejo became minister for railways in the military government in 1978-9. When, early in 1985, Zia held local and national elections to enlist popular support for his policies Junejo took a seat in the national assembly and was subsequently appointed prime minister.

Differences between Junejo and Zia emerged almost from the moment of the former's taking office. Junejo declared that he wanted martial law lifted and found his remarks to this effect cut out of news bulletins and press reports. Nevertheless the assembly pressed ahead with a certain amount of liberalising legislation and on December 30, 1989, martial law was lifted by Zia, resulting in greater activity by various political parties. Opposition activity to Zia focused on the person of Benazir Bhutto, who denounced Junejo as a frontman for the dictatorial president and called for fresh elections. An increase in violent demonstrations throughout the country impelled Junejo to appeal to opposition parties to cancel their meetings, and when they did not, to ban them. During 1986 and 1987 the government was in a state of continual crisis with terrorist bombings in major cities and disputes between rival ethnic groups. Nevertheless local elections took place in November 1987 and attracted a reasonable turnout.

By early 1988 the rift between president and prime minister was becoming apparent. Junejo had always claimed for himself the credit for the lifting of the state of emergency. The original understanding had been that the prime minister should exercise authority on internal affairs, leaving foreign policy the province of Zia.

But Junejo increasingly expressed himself on matters within the president's domain, notably on Pakistan's relationship with India and Afghanistan. When Zia opposed the 1988 Geneva agreement which led to the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan — on the ground that it did not provide for a transfer of power from the communist rulers to the Muslim rebels he had been arming for ten years — Junejo made his opposition to the president's position well known. (In 1987 Junejo had visited Britain and had talks with Margaret Thatcher on the Soviet attitude to Afghanistan.)

In April 1988 an explosion at an ammunition depot at Ojhri, in the north of the country, brought matters to a



head. The army claimed the blast was accidental. Junejo's enquiry blamed it on the army's carelessness. In the same month Junejo's government forced the resignation of the chief minister of Sind after criticising his failure to control ethnic troubles in the province.

On May 29, without warning, Zia dismissed Junejo and the national assembly, claiming that the process of creating an Islamic state was being brought on at too sluggish a pace. Junejo's career never recovered. Although he was leader of one of the main factions of the Pakistan Muslim League (which then sought alliances with other groups), his following suffered a serious reverse at the elections called in November 1988 in the wake of Zia's death in an air crash. He himself failed to be elected to the assembly and was politically eclipsed.

Throughout his period in office Junejo's desire to do good had always been at the mercy of Zia's ability to control the pace of events and the flow of information. Thus, when Junejo publicly asserted that Pakistan could not make an atomic bomb, Zia immediately contradicted him, quoting chapter and verse from Pakistan's leading nuclear physicist. And it was characteristic that while Zia was dismissing Junejo and his government, the prime minister, all unknowing, was addressing a news conference near by.

Junejo was married with five children.

RUDOLPH GLOSSOP

Rudolph "Silas" Glossop, mining engineer, died in Cornwall on March 1 aged 91. He was born on February 17, 1902.

RUDOLPH Glossop was a mining engineer who devoted much of his professional life to bringing together the disciplines of geology and soil mechanics.

He also entered the margins of literary history during the 1920s as a friend of Antonia White, the writer, with whom he had a child. White was at the time already married to Eric Earnshaw Smith, a civil servant, but she had started to take lovers to compensate for the affairs her husband was having with young soldiers.

Glossop burst into this uneasy household in 1928 when his motorcycle broke down outside. He seemed an exotic specimen to White, not the sort she would normally meet at a literary party, but well-read in French and English literature. In August 1929 she bore him a daughter and divorced Smith the same year. She then spent some months trying to decide whether to marry Glossop or another lover, Tom Hopkinson. Glossop had taken a mining post in Canada to await her decision meanwhile and, in his absence, she chose Hopkinson (later to be editor of *Picture Post*). Glossop and she remained close friends up to her death.

Glossop was a man of wide interests — another of his close friendships was with the painter John Tunnard — and he enjoyed discussions on all manner of subjects.

He was born at Bakewell into an old Derbyshire family. Educated at Cheltenham College and Imperial College, London, where he took his degree in mining engineering in 1924, he worked for four years in Canada and Mexico, then as a lecturer at Birmingham University, before joining the staff of John Mowlem, the civil engineering contractor, on the construction of Leicester Square Station, 1930-33.

After a spell on the Gold Coast working on mining surveys, Glossop returned to Mowlem's in 1937 and was put in charge of a specialist division, concerned with ground-water lowering and alluvial grouting processes. In August that year a spectacular slip occurred during construction of the embankment dam for a new reservoir near Chingford in the Lea Valley. Mowlem's were the contractors, and the slip was investigated by the pioneer soil mechanics team of the Building Research Station (DSIR). This led to a redesign, on which Professor Karl Terzaghi was consulted and, when work started again in 1938, Glossop was brought in by Mowlem's as sub-agent with Sir Robert Wynne-Edwards. At the site he set up a small soil mechanics laboratory, first dealing only with control testing for the dam, but soon engaged on work for other Mowlem jobs.

In 1941 Glossop began the construction of a military airfield at Leiston, Suffolk, and took over a disused school laboratory to continue the work begun at Chingford. By 1943 the laboratory, now with a large workload, was moved to the flat (temporarily unoccupied), in Victoria Street, of Sir George Burt, the chairman of Mowlem's. There in November 1943 a company was formed under the title Soil Mechanics; the first commercial geotechnical laboratory in Britain, and perhaps the first anywhere. Under Glossop's direction the firm expanded its services, employing geologists and engineers, with great success.

The need for a publication dedicated to soil mechanics and engineering geology was rapidly becoming apparent. Glossop was clearly the man who, if anyone could, would bring such a publication into being. This he achieved, even providing the necessary capital through a personal overdraft, and the first issue of *Geotechnique* appeared in June 1948. An international journal from the start, its success exceeded the most optimistic hopes of the founders. By 1950 the task of publication, now beyond the capabilities of Glossop's amateur team, was taken over by the Institution of Civil Engineers which had an editorial panel on which Glossop served for 20 years.

All this time he was busily engaged on engineering works, becoming a director of Mowlem's in 1951, chairman of the Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors, 1963-64, and writing a dozen or more papers. Three of these, on the history of rock and alluvial grouting and the use of compressed air in shafts and tunnels, were works of true scholarship.

Meanwhile engineering geology was growing in importance and the Geological Society decided in 1964 to set up an engineering group. Glossop was a founder member and its chairman from 1965 to 1968. Recognising that *Geotechnique* was now unable to cope with publishing papers covering the entire field, steps were taken to start publication of a new *Quarterly Journal of Engineering Geology* in 1967.

Glossop was elected to the Smeatonian Society in 1966. He became a fellow of Imperial College in 1970 and a fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering in 1978.

He is survived by his wife, Sheila, their daughter, Emma, and his daughter by Antonia White, Lady Susan Chitty.



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COMING OPERATIONS AT THE DARDANELLES

By Our Naval Correspondent

Almost immediately, the operation of forcing the Dardanelles must assume a new guise. From having been a purely sea affair, it will take on the character of a conjoint enterprise in which the military as well as the naval forces of the Allies will co-operate. What has been done hitherto includes not only the demolition of the forts and batteries at the entrance to the Straits, but many of the interior defences have been destroyed and obstructions in the shape of mines have been cleared away as far as the Narrows. Bluejackets, and a detachment of the Royal Marine Brigade of the Royal Naval Division, were landed after the bombardment to complete the work of the naval guns, but it has been obvious from the outset of the operations that further military assistance would be necessary before the business could be completed . . .

The dangerous character of the mine-sweeper's work was referred to in one of the *Admiralty communiqués*. Both the trawlers engaged in these operations and the light cruisers protecting them must move comparatively slowly, and thus offer a better target for the Turkish gunners. The plunging fire from howitzers also may effect more damage than that from guns, as is shown by the heavy list of casualties in the Amethyst, principally in the engine-room and stokehold departments. The coolness and courage with which the trawler crews perform their risky duties merit the highest approbation. They, too, have had their losses, as may be seen from the casualty list, and one of the boats has been sunk . . .

The next business will be to complete the destruction of the formidable works in the Narrows. The supremacy of the ships over the forts in gun-fire, whenever it has been expedient to assert it, has been amply demonstrated, but it goes without saying, under the conditions which will obtain, that the task will now become more dangerous. We must not expect its successful accomplishment without some sacrifice. It must be repeated, however, that fine weather is essential. The airmen require for their work a clear sky, and the seamen for their indirect fire smooth water. It is provoking, no doubt, that there should have been such a succession of days when gales and fogs prevailed, but patience must be exercised until the atmospheric conditions are favourable.

It is just a month ago to-day since the attack upon the outer forts began, and up to the beginning of this week there had been only 14 days upon which the weather was suitable for firing; on not all of these, moreover, could the bombardment be carried on for the whole day. Bad weather has thus interrupted the work in the Straits for over half the time. But during some days in the month the vessels have been able to carry out the destruction of defence works at the isthmus from the Gulf of Saros, and in addition the operations further down the coast of Asia Minor, which were begun on March 5, have made good progress. On the whole, it is astonishing how little damage has been done to the ships, and how few casualties have been incurred . . .

ON THIS DAY

March 19 1915

In February the Navy began an attempt to force the Dardanelles, "with Constantinople as its objective". The operation failed and it was left to the military to embark on the ill-fated Gallipoli campaign.

THE TIMES TODAY

FRIDAY MARCH 19 1993

NEWS

Major rejoices in jobless fall

■ John Major struck an upbeat note on the economy after an unexpected 22,000 fall in unemployment, the first decrease for three years. The fall came as the pound strengthened, Germany cut interest rates and the housing market showed a sharp increase in mortgages taken out.

Mr Major taunted Labour leader John Smith: "The country will have noticed that on this occasion you . . . gave no welcome to the fall in unemployment" .....Page 1

BBC governors back Hussey

■ Marmaduke Hussey, the BBC's chairman, stood his ground, resisting repeated calls for him to resign over the John Birt tax affair. The other 11 governors closed ranks behind him and issued a statement reconfirming "full support for John Birt, the director-general" .....Page 1

£21,000 damages

Sigrid Griffiths won a High Court action against the solicitors who acted for her during her divorce from Sir Eldon Griffiths, the retired Tory MP. A judge awarded over £21,000 in damages for negligence ..... Page 1

VAT rescue

The prime minister defused a potential Tory backbench revolt by making clear that extra help will be given to the poor over the VAT to be imposed on electricity and gas bills ..... Page 1

Lock-up plea

Parents of a 12-year-old North Yorkshire boy asked a court to lock him up after hearing how he repeatedly put concrete blocks on one of the fastest stretches of railway, the King's Cross to Edinburgh line where trains regularly travel at 110mph ... Page 8

Royal appeal

The Princess of Wales made an impassioned plea for help to stop the "terrible waste of young lives" caused by teenage homelessness. She asked society to take notice of problems faced by young people driven from home by sexual abuse, violence or neglect ..... Page 8

London pride

Michael Cassidy, of the Corporation of London, launched an international campaign to market London as the perfect place to have an office. He attacked exodus policies for ruining the capital ..... Page 7

Polish retreat

The Polish parliament rejected a mass privatisation plan, giving the coalition led by Hanna Suchocka its most serious defeat. The outcome leaves Poland without a legal framework for transferring big state enterprises into private hands ..... Page 13

Peking threat

China warned Britain last night that bilateral trade would suffer as a result of Chris Patten's decision to push ahead with democratic reforms in Hong Kong before the colony is handed back to Peking in 1997 ..... Page 14

Fishery rebuff

Demands by militant English and French trawlermen for new controls on cheap fish imports and a ban on Russian cod were rejected by EC fisheries ministers in Brussels ..... Page 2

Kept waiting

Waiting lists for old people's homes could emerge for the first time because local authorities have not been provided with sufficient funds under community care changes which take effect on April 1 ..... Page 2

Oilmen blamed

Childhood leukaemia cases around the Dounreay nuclear plant in Caithness were most likely the result of an infectious agent brought to the area by oil workers, says a new study. It concludes that this a far more likely cause than radioactive emissions ..... Page 5

MPs seek a press ombudsman

■ The government will be urged by MPs next week to set up a press ombudsman, preferably a retired judge, with powers to demand corrections and fine offenders. The Commons national heritage committee is expected to criticise the Press Complaints Commission's performance while dismissing the case for statutory policing of the press .....Page 1

MARK BATTENBURY



Six pack: John and Fiona Waterer will enter their Exmoor team at the National Shire Horse Show in Peterborough this weekend

BUSINESS

Rate cut: Bowing to pressure for action to contain the deepening recession in Germany, the Bundesbank cut a half percentage point off its key discount rate to 7.5 per cent, a move followed by other European central banks ..... Page 23

Flat beer: *Guinness suffered a* 12 per cent fall in profits after taking a £125 million charge against the cost of restructuring activities in Scotland and Spain ..... Page 23

Markets: Sterling rose strongly on the foreign exchange, closing up 2.63 pfennigs at DM2.4401 and up 2.44 cents at $1.4735. The stock market suffered further losses, with the FT-SE 100 index closing down 10.2 at 2,879.7 ..... Page 26

SPORT

Cricket: England's dismal winter tour continued yesterday with their first Test defeat at the hands of Sri Lanka, prompting Keith Fletcher, the manager, to predict changes of personnel when the side comes up against Australia in the Ashes series this summer ..... Page 42

Racing: Jodami, trained in Yorkshire by Peter Beaumont, won yesterday's Tote Cheltenham Gold Cup. The Fellow, the French-trained favourite, finished a disappointing fourth ..... Page 44

Football: The FA is likely to please the two Sheffield clubs, United and Wednesday, by moving their Cup semi-final from Elland Road to Old Trafford ..... Page 44

Images of violence: "Women are so lovely. How can anyone want to hurt women like that, as entertainment?" Valerie Grove meets James Ferman, British Board of Film Classification chief ..... Page 16

Past perfect: Behind the anguish *in France over unemployment* and the riots over farm and fish prices lies a sense of loss and nostalgia for a golden age. Charles Bremner reports ..... Page 17

States of grace: Women generally appear more understanding and less condemnatory than might have been expected. Perhaps they know men only too well. Walter Ellis on the former Bishop of Gloucester ..... Page 17

Country pleasures: Visitors to Britain's stately homes will find some of the nation's greatest art treasures, but not necessarily in the grandest houses ..... Page 35

Duel and Duke: English National Opera's double-bill of Monteverdi's *The Duel of Tancredi and Clorinda* and Bartok's *Duke Bluebeard's Castle* is almost too much of a good thing ..... Page 36

Blues revival: A London club's week-long festival of the blues has proved to be a sell-out. Taken together with Eric Clapton's marathon at the Albert Hall, this spells good news both for blues musicians and also for the music's many enthusiasts ..... Page 37

PEOPLE IN THE TIMES



Winnie Mandela will be hampered in her attempts at a political comeback after her husband ordered the phone company to cut off her line Page 15



Fay Weldon is one of the literary recruits to the British Film Institute's defence of the video as a democratic adjunct to 20th-century culture Page 9



Jack Lang, the French culture minister, led a busload of Paris intellectuals on a mystery tour to a meeting of solidarity with Salman Rushdie Page 12

THE TIMES TOMORROW

Who needs mothering?

■ What on earth did the mothers of Britain do to deserve a faceful of wilting daffs?

Singing to a hole in the ground

■ Have the people of a respectable town in Kent gone completely mad?

How to buy an Oscar

■ Only the most foolish filmgoer believes that an Academy Award comes from merit alone. An insider's guide to winning Hollywood fame and fortune.

TV & RADIO

The American writer Philip Roth has not given a television interview for 20 years. But he breaks his silence on *Arena* (BBC2, 9.30pm) to discuss how much of himself he puts into his novels ..... Page 43

OPINION

A Kennedy home

The arrival on Irish soil of a Kennedy in official capacity is bound to set Unionist nerves jangling. Mrs Smith should vigorously encourage the present trend towards conciliation and support efforts to rekindle the Anglo-Irish talks ..... Page 19

Grey dawn in France

The French are expected to vote massively for the centre-right UPF coalition in Sunday's general election. But prize is the dubious privilege of two years of "cohabitation" with President Mitterrand Page 19

Fuel to the fire

Presentation is important in politics. Had ministers followed the VAT-on-fuel announcement with an immediate statement that the poor would be fully protected, they would have sounded sensible and compassionate. The economy is no different ..... Page 19

COLUMNS

BERNARD LEVIN

The central figure in this story is, or more exactly was, a bank manager. But be assured; this is not another denunciation of the banks for their grasping ways, their sharp practices, their stony hearts. Far from it; this is a tale to warm the heart of a snowman, even an icicle .. Page 18

DEREK DAVIES

The Foreign Office mandarins who governed Hong Kong have always seemed somewhat out of touch . . . The years studying the Chinese language and culture apparently gave them little appreciation of the willingness of the Cantonese to make a heap of all his winnings and risk them on one turn of the horses round the Happy Valley racecourse ..... Page 18

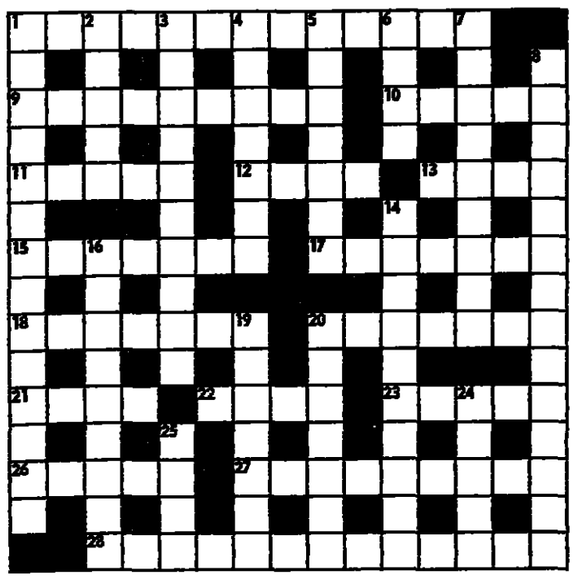
LETTERS

Readers respond unfavourably to the Budget measures ..... Page 19

DIARY

How long will Mr Patten be able to resist this shadow second kitchen, as announced by Lu Ping? In a country where the cooking has a reputation equalled only in France, this could have a bitter taste. Chinese "cooks" are past masters with the knife —*Le Monde*

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,182



ACROSS

1 Spots cause of disease — a nameless disorder (6,7).
9 Too many people are on the sulphur drug (9).
10 Spaghetti as served in scholastic get-together (5).
11 *Publish one's petition* (5).
12 Returned girl's husband (4).
13 Grouse flesh (4).
15 Flower generation stuck in road block on way back (7).
17 Back her old application to move elsewhere (7).
18 Contracts for last of Minuteman *missiles* (7).
20 Novelist's deep depression (7).
21 Fishes for a date (4).
22 Possibly a tinker's copper vessel (4).
23 A parent, perhaps, but not a blood donor (2-3).
26 Hooter envelopes one in clamour (5).
27 This paper is undercutting the rest for a start (9).
28 Novel ingredients for a wine of Scotland? (6,2,5).

DOWN

1 Proverbial road metal down under (4,10).
2 Frees awkward knots (5).
3 Sailors taking wine on island mostly show restraint (10).
4 *Someone is slipping into understatement* (7).
5 A student beau is unduly effusive (3,4).
6 Less than a gallop, even for a horse (4).
7 Sustained by one's stout when it's drunk (9).
8 Girl invested in semi valued at very little (14).
14 If you put all your goods here, there's not much underneath (4,6).
16 Nevertheless, going round the forest was recommended by Candide (9).
19 *Hatchway covering for bunk* (7).
20 It gave old soldiers a roof over their heads (7).
24 Poet's carol is different (5).
25 Goddess of the horse age (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 19,181

MORSE — WHODUNNIT?

D	E	B	A	R	R	I	N	G		T	O	N	D	O
I		U		E		D		I		O		I		R
S	T	R	O	P	H	E		L	O	U	N	G	E	D
C		N		A		L		R		H		E		
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E			T		I		E		R		G			
D	I	S	P	E	R	S	E				J	O	H	N
I		T		E		T		C		S		W		E
T	H	A	W				G	O	V	E	R	N	O	R
		G		B		A		V		R				V
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C	E	D	E	D		E	X	T	E	R	I	O	R	S

Concise Crossword, page 44

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Greater London	701
Kent,Surrey,Sussex	702
Dorset,Hants & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wilts,Glouc's,Avon,Soms	705
Berks,Bucks,Oxon	706
Beds,Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk,Suffolk,Cambs	708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops,Heralds & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Caithness,Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

Weathercall is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and road-works information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks	
C. London (within N & S Circs.)	731
M-ways/roads M4-M1	732
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T	733
M-ways/roads Dartford T-M23	734
M-ways/roads M23-M4	735
M25 London Orbital only	736
National traffic and roadworks	
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

ATTRACTIVE TREE...
FIVE LETTERS
The answer's 'Maple', the full-benefit, low-cost health scheme for private treatment in NHS hospitals.
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Health Insurance
Rivergate House, Blackbrook Park, Taunton, Somerset TA1 2PE
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WEATHER

Much of England and Wales will be dry and bright but the far south-west will stay cloudy. Scotland and Northern Ireland will be mostly cloudy, with rain moving south during the afternoon and evening, but more sheltered eastern parts of Scotland will stay mostly dry. Temperatures mostly above normal, but it will be windy in the north with gales in places. Outlook: rain in the north on Saturday will move towards the south-east on Sunday.

ABROAD

MIDDAY: t=thunder; d=drizzle; fg=fog; s=sun; sl=sleet, sn=snow; f=fair; c=cloud, r=rain

	C	F			C	F	
Ajaccio	15	59	c	Madrid	17	63	s
Akrotiri	16	61	f	Majorca	18	64	s
Alex'dria	16	61	f	Malaga	19	66	s
Algiers	21	70	s	Malta	18	64	c
Amst'dm	13	55	c	Melb'rne	22	72	s
Athens	16	61	s	Mexico C*	21	70	s
Bahrain	24	75	s	Miami*	24	75	c
Bangkok	33	91	s	Milan	20	68	s
Barbados*	29	84	f	Montreal*	-7	19	sn
Barcelona	13	66	f	Moscow	4	39	c
Beirut	13	55	f	Munich	18	64	s
Belgrade	15	53	f	Naples	20	68	s
Berlin	11	52	c	N Delhi	25	77	s
Bermuda*	22	72	f	N York*	7	45	r
Biarritz	15	59	s	Nice	13	55	c
Borde'x	23	73	s	Oslo	7	45	s
Brussels	11	52	c	Paris	13	55	c
Budapest	15	59	c	Palma	10	50	s
B Aires*	28	82	f	Perth	19	66	f
Cairo	17	63	f	Prague	14	57	s
Cape Tn	26	79	s	Reykjavik	-2	28	c
Chicago*	-6	21	s	Rhodes	15	59	s
Ch'church	13	55	f	Rio de J	29	84	f
Cologne	11	52	c	Riyadh	33	91	f
C'phagn	8	46	c	Rome	15	59	s
Corfu	19	66	f	Salzburg	16	61	s
Dublin	8	46	f	S F'risco*	17	63	r
Dubrovnik	18	64	s	Santiago*	27	81	s
Faro	19	66	f	S Paulo*	29	84	f
Florence	15	59	s	Seoul	8	46	c
Frankfurt	13	55	f	Sing'por	24	75	r
Funchal	19	66	f	Sydney	24	73	f
Geneva	16	61	s	Strasb'rg	17	63	f
Gibraltar	17	63	f	Sydney	24	73	f
Helsinki	1	45	s	Tangier	19	66	s
Hong K	15	59	s	Tel Aviv	13	55	f
Innsbruck	15	59	s	Tenerife	18	64	c
Istanbul	7	45	s	Tokyo	11	52	s
Jeddah	25	82	s	Toronto*	-8	18	f
Jo'burg*	21	70	f	Tunis	18	64	f
L Palmas	20	68	f	Valencia	21	70	s
La Toquet	11	52	c	Vanc'ver*	5	41	r
Lisbon	17	63	s	Venice	14	57	s
Locarno	20	68	s	Vienna	18	64	f
London	14	57	f	Warsaw	10	50	r
L Angels*	18	64	f	Wash'ton*	7	45	r
Luxembg	11	52	c	Wel'ton	13	55	c
Luxor	21	70	s	Zurich	17	63	s

* denotes figures are latest available

LONDON

Yesterday: Temp: max 6am to 6pm, 15C (59F); min 6pm to 6am, 11C (52F). Humidity: 6pm, 72 per cent. Rain: 24hr to 6pm, trace. Sun: 24hr to 6pm, 3.1hr. Bar, mean sea level, 6pm, 1,025.8 millibars, rising 1,000 millibars = 29.53in

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Wednesday: Highest day temp: Weybourne, Norfolk, 19C (66F); lowest day max: Lerwick, Shetland, and Cape Wrath, Highland, 7C (45F). Highest rainfall, Glasgow Airport, 1.04in. Highest sunshine: Aberdeen, 9.7hr

MANCHESTER

Yesterday: Temp: max 6am to 6pm, 10C (50F); min 6pm to 6am, 6C (43F). Rain: 24hr to 6pm, 0.03in. Sun: 24hr to 6pm, 3.2hr.

GLASGOW

Yesterday: Temp: max 6am to 6pm, 7C (45F); min 6pm to 6am, 3C (37F). Rain: 24hr to 6pm, 0.41in. Sun: 24hr to 6pm, 5.6hr.

AROUND BRITAIN

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	9.7	-	18	64	sunny
Anglesey	3.0	0.06	11	52	bright
Aviemore	1.2	0.08	12	54	rain
Belfast	-	0.02	12	54	cloudy
Birmingham	4.5	-	16	61	bright
Bognor Regis	7.2	-	13	55	sunny
Bournemouth	7.1	0.02	14	57	bright
Bristol	4.2	-	13	55	bright
Buxton	0.5	0.02	12	54	cloudy
Cardiff	0.1	-	11	52	cloudy
Clacton	8.1	0.01	16	61	sunny
Edinburgh	3.8	0.06	14	57	rain
Eskdalemuir	-	0.28	10	50	rain
Exmouth	5.8	0.02	15	59	bright
Falmouth	1.6	-	13	55	cloudy
Folkestone	6.6	0.01	12	54	sunny
Glasgow	-	1.04	11	52	rain
Guernsey	5.4	0.02	14	57	bright
Hastings	5.4	0.02	11	52	sunny
Hunstanton	6.8	-	13	55	sunny
Jersey	1.8	-	13	55	cloudy
Leeds	-	-	14	57	cloudy
Lerwick	0.2	0.30	7	45	shower
Liverpool	5.8	0.03	13	55	sunny
London	7.2	-	17	63	sunny
Lowestoft	7.2	0.04	18	64	sunny
Manchester	2.2	0.02	14	57	cloudy
Margate	6.3	0.02	17	63	sunny
Minehead	6.7	-	16	61	sunny
Morecambe	-	0.21	10	50	dull
Newcastle	3.3	-	16	61	bright
Newquay	2.2	-	13	55	bright
Nottingham	6.2	-	15	59	sunny
Penzance	2.9	-	14	57	bright
Plymouth	1.6	0.01	12	54	cloudy
Poole	6.3	0.01	15	59	bright
Prestwick	-	0.45	12	54	rain
Sandown	6.3	-	13	55	sunny
Saunton Snd	2.0	-	12	54	cloudy
Scarborough	0.5	-	14	57	dull
Scilly Isles	1.3	-	12	54	cloudy
Shanklin	8.6	-	12	54	sunny
Southend	8.5	0.02	16	61	sunny
Southsea	8.5	-	12	54	sunny
Stornoway	1.0	0.09	10	50	rain
Sunnage	7.5	0.02	13	55	sunny
Teignmouth	4.8	-	15	59	bright
Tenby	-	0.04	11	52	cloudy
Tiree	-	0.12	11	52	drizzle
Torquay	2.6	0.04	15	59	bright
Weymouth	8.0	-	11	52	bright
Wick	1.7	0.02	11	52	rain
Worthing	8.9	-	11	52	sunny

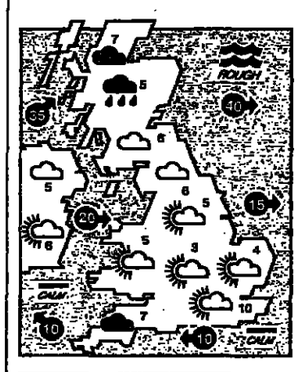
X denotes Not Available

FOREIGN RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.16	1.96
Austria Sch	18.20	16.70
Belgium Fr	53.40	48.00
Canada $	1.95	1.80
Denmark Kr	10.00	9.20
Finland Mrk	8.47	8.67
France Fr	8.80	8.10
Germany Dm	2.58	2.38
Greece Dr	350.00	325.00
Hong Kong $	12.05	11.05
Ireland Pt	1.05	0.97
Italy Lira	2445.00	2300.00
Japan Yen	190.00	171.00
Netherlands Gld	2.91	2.68
Norway Kr	10.97	10.17
Portugal Esc	237.00	219.00
South Africa Rd	5.40	4.70
Spain Pta	180.60	167.60
Sweden Kr	11.06	11.26
Switzerland Fr	2.37	2.19
Turkey Lira	14400.0	13400.0
USA $	0.000	0.000

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

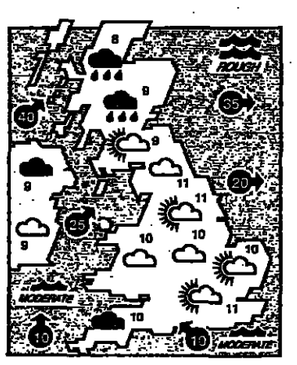
SUN & MOON



London 6.12 pm to 6.8 am
Bristol 6.22 pm to 6.16 am
Edinburgh 5.23 pm to 6.18 am
Manchester 5.20 pm to 6.14 am
Penzance 6.34 pm to 6.24 am

Sun rises: 6.8 am
Sun sets: 6.12 pm
Moon rises: 4.20 am
Moon sets: 2.35 pm
New Moon March 28

UK YESTERDAY



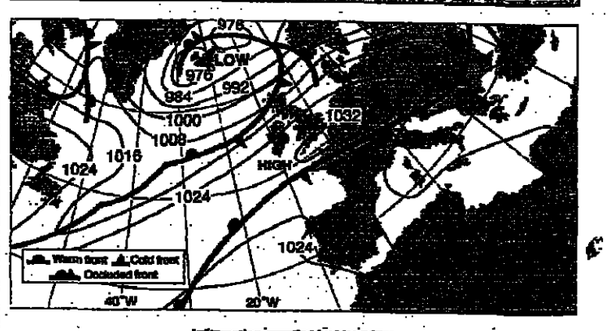
Temperatures at midday yesterday: c, cloud; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun

	C	F			C	F	
Belfast	6	43	c	Guernsey	10	50	c
B'mngham	11	52	c	Inverness	5	41	s
Blackpool	8	46	f	Jersey	12	54	c
Bristol	11	52	c	London	14	57	f
Cardiff	11	52	c	M'nchster	8	46	c
Edinburgh	7	45	s	Newcastle	8	46	f
Glasgow	5	41	c	R'nldsway	7	45	c

HIGH & LOW WATER

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	11.32	5.3	11.51	5.3	Liverpool	8.53	8.00	9.25	8.0
Aberdeen	11.02	3.5	11.44	3.6	Lowestoft	7.33	2.1	7.22	2.1
Avonmouth	4.31	10.9	5.01	11.1	Margate	9.57	4.1	10.03	4.1
Belfast	8.33	3.0	9.08	2.9	Milford Haven	3.45	5.7	4.13	5.7
Cardiff	4.16	10.1	4.46	10.3	Newquay	2.41	5.8	3.07	5.8
Devonport	2.54	4.5	3.30	4.5	Oban	3.37	3.2	4.23	3.1
Dover	8.54	5.5	9.10	5.7	Penzance	2.02	4.5	2.35	4.5
Falmouth	2.24	4.3	3.00	4.3	Portland	4.11	1 5	4.46	1 4
Glasgow	10.37	4.1	11.11	3.9	Portsmouth	9.01	3.9	9.33	4.2
Harwich	9.29	3.5	9.46	3.4	Shoreham	8.51	5.0	9.23	5.3
Holyhead	8.09	4.8	8.44	4.7	Southampton	8.46	3.8	9.24	4.0
Hull	4.04	6.5	4.09	6.3	Swansea	3.41	7.8	4.12	7.9
Ilfracombe	3.32	7.5	4.02	7.6	Tees	1.17	4.3	1.23	4.5
King's Lynn	4.16	5.2	4.19	5.4	Wilton-on-Nze	9.25	3.8	9.42	3.6
Leith	12.08	4.5	12.19	4.6					

PRESSURE



Information supplied by Met Office

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INFOTECH 31-33

Are computers making Eric Idle?



ARTS 35-37

Hidden treasures of England's stately homes



SPORT 40-44

Mansell still the focus of attention

ON THE ROAD WITH THE ANIMALS
Page 39

THE TIMES

2

FRIDAY MARCH 19 1993

BUSINESS TODAY

CLIMBING



Legal & General is lifting its payout on higher profits, but it suffered mortgage indemnity losses
Page 24

REVEALING

Investors should be told more about commissions paid, the director-general of fair trading argues
Page 25

CRUMBLING

UB

A cookie war in America sent profits at United Biscuits down by 18 per cent but the dividend is held
Page 25

HOPING

There was a surprise fall in unemployment; is it a statistical blip or does it herald an end to the agony?
Page 27

THE POUND

US $ ..... 1.4735 (+0.0244)
German mark..2.4401 (+0.0283)
Exchange index..... 79.2 (+1.1)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT-SE 100 ..... 2879.7 (-10.2)
Dow Jones .3448.62 (+21.85)*
Nikkei Avg. 18727.90 (+554.53)

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base..... 6%
3-month Interbank..... 6-5⅞%
US Federal Funds 3⅛*
3-month Treas Bills 2.96-2.95%*
Long Bond 6.83%*

CURRENCIES

New York:		London:	
£:$	1.4755*	£:$	1.4740
$:DM	1.6540*	£:DM	2.4358
$:SWfr	1.5215*	£:SWfr	2.2401
$:Flr	5.6395*	£:Flr	8.3060
$:Yen	116.90*	£:Yen	172.46
£:SDR	1.0538	£:ECU	1.2534

London Forex market close

GOLD

London Fixing ($):
AM 329.50 ..... PM 330.25
Close 330.20-330.60
New York:
Comex 330.65-331.15*

RETAIL PRICES

RPI..... 137.9 January (1.7%)
* Denotes midday trading price

Guinness deserted by profits genius

BY GEORGE SIVELL, CITY EDITOR

GUINNESS suffered its first profits fall since 1981, largely because of a previously announced £125 million provision for cutbacks in Scotland and in Spain. The pre-tax figure for 1992 was 12 per cent down at £795 million.

The drinks and brewing group said £48 million of the provision would be spent on reorganising production and packaging of whisky in Scotland, and £77 million on reorganising the Spanish brewing operation.

Guinness unveiled a £100 million investment programme in Spain — where, however, a further 500 jobs are to go, on top of 250 redundancies announced last year. The total Spanish workforce has been reduced by a fifth since Guinness took over Cruzcampo and Union Cervecera in 1991. Trading profits fell from £61 million to £41 million, on sales up from £283 million to £357 million.

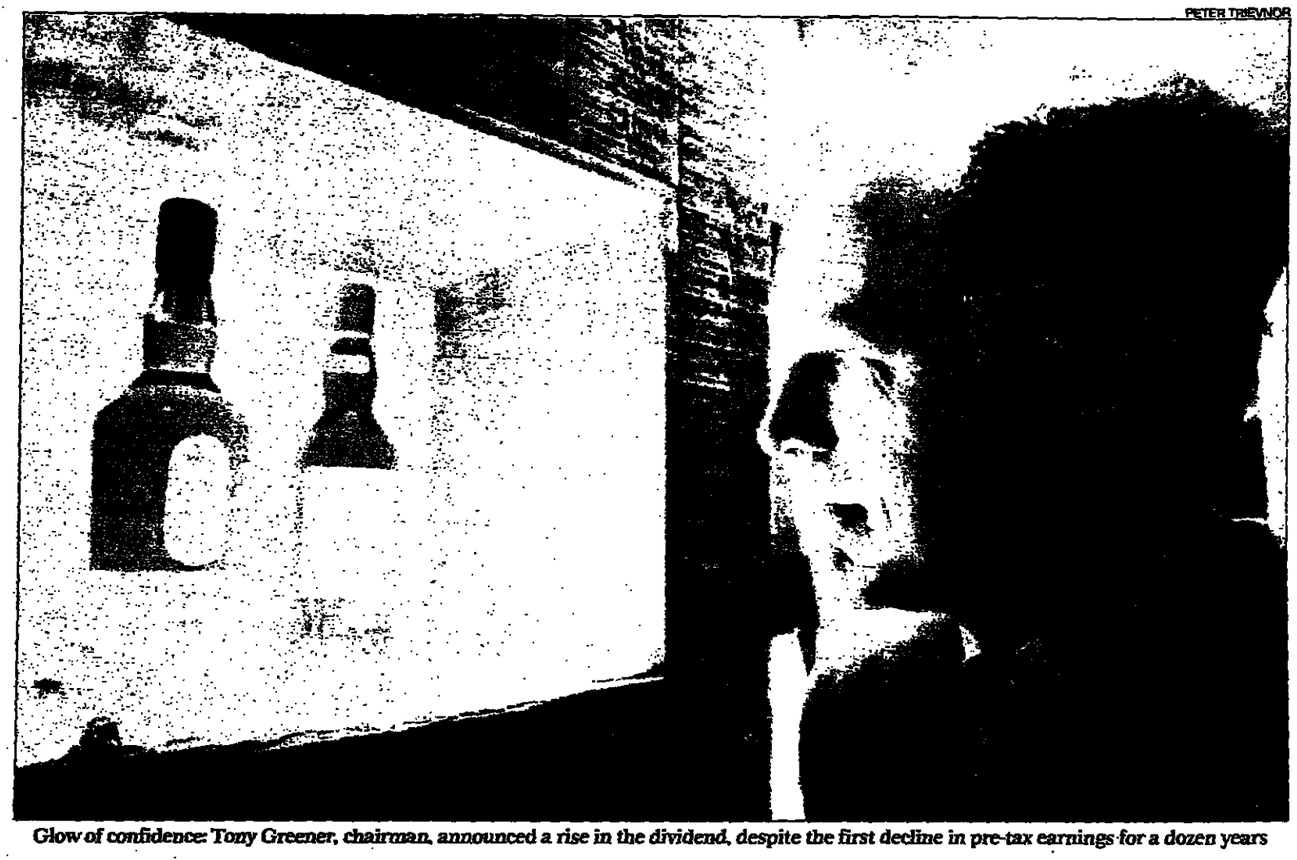
However, the total dividend for the year rises 10 per cent to 11.85p, out of earnings down from 31.4p to 27.8p. This was not enough to stop the shares falling 17p to 468p, though the pre-tax profit figure was in line with expectations.

Tony Greener, chairman, said: "Guinness is performing creditably through this recession. Both spirits and beer increased trading profit last year in extremely difficult conditions. The cash performance has been strong in 1992, and the proposed dividend is a measure of our financial strength and confidence in our long-term prospects."

Guinness increased net cash flow from £123 million to £205 million, though the proportion of debt to equity rose from 50 to 56 per cent because of the pound's devaluation. Stripping out the valuation of acquired brands such as Bell's, Dewar's and Johnnie Walker, gearing rises from 119 to 140 per cent.

Guinness's share of profits from LVMH fell from £123 million to £101 million, owing to a 20 per cent fall in net profits, to 3 billion francs, at the French drinks and luxury goods group.

Tempus, page 27



PETER TREVINOR

Glow of confidence: Tony Greener, chairman, announced a rise in the dividend, despite the first decline in pre-tax earnings for a dozen years

Germany triggers European rate cuts

BY ROSS TIEMAN IN FRANKFURT AND COLIN NARBROUGH

■ **Sterling soared by more than 2½ pfennigs to top DM2.44 after a surprise fall in unemployment and a cut in key German interest rates by the Bundesbank**

THE Bundesbank sheared another half point off one of its key lending rates, triggering rate cuts in neighbouring countries, and raising hopes of more to come to help Europe out of the economic doldrums.

The latest cut in the discount rate to 7.5 per cent, effective today, gave the pound, advancing strongly after news of a surprise fall in British unemployment in February, a boost.

At the official 4pm London close, sterling had climbed to its strongest since the last week in January. Sterling's trade-weighted index jumped 1.1 to 79.2, its best since January 26. The pound ended well over 2.5 pfennigs up at DM2.4401 and almost 2.5 cent stronger at $1.4735.

But Helmut Schlesinger, the Bundesbank president, failed to help the French franc, which has started to to come under pressure in the run-up to the legislative election that begins in France on Sunday.

The franc fell to DM3.4090, its weakest since early January. Foreign exchange dealers said that in holding back on a cut in its other key rate, the Lombard, left at 9 per cent, the Bundesbank was keeping something in reserve to counter pressure on the franc likely to emerge in the exchange-rate system after the two-part elections. The Swiss and Danish central banks announced similar cuts immediately after the Bundesbank decision, later to be followed by Austria. The Belgians and the Dutch also pared their rates.

The discount rate is the Bundesbank's cheapest rate for loans to commercial banks. The Lombard is the rate at which banks can borrow emergency funds from the central bank. Both rates were last cut on February 4. When interest rates are falling, the Lombard is of less significance. Theo Waigel, the finance minister, welcomed the cut as "positive stimulus" for growth in Germany. Günther Rexrodt, economics minister, said it gave scope for rate cuts in Europe, a sentiment shared by the Treasury in London.



Schlesinger: half-point cut

Although the Bundesbank move was widely read as a nod to Bonn's success in putting together a fiscal "solidarity" pact last weekend, and a move to contain ERM tensions, the bank argued that there were other reasons.

The Bundesbank said the cut was a step in its "gradual" easing. Johann Gaddum, of the bank's directors, explained that the slowdown in German money growth over the last six months that permitted the latest cut. He said official data allowed the bank to assume that the money supply was moving towards the right growth range.

Figures released yesterday showed that the M3 broad money supply grew at an annualised 5.5 per cent over the six months to February, down from 6.5 per cent reported for January. The target range is 4.5-6.5 per cent.

Industry was unimpressed. The German chamber of commerce called the cut "largely symbolic".

Max Kley, finance director of BASF, the chemical group, said: "I don't believe this will have any big impact on German industry." He said the real problem for German industry was the strength of the mark, which has to be kept at a high level to attract the international funds needed to finance reunification.

One effect of a strong mark was to lure overseas competitors such as Taiwan, Korea and the East European countries into the German market, which for them remained profitable. The strong mark was also driving some German industry overseas.

Thomas Mayer, an economist with Goldman Sachs in Frankfurt, said the modest reductions in the discount rate since August concealed a large loosening in monetary policy. Although the discount rate had fallen from 8.75 per cent, the costs of borrowing for German consumers had fallen much more sharply.

A typical mortgage at a fixed rate for five years would now cost 7.5 per cent compared with interest rates of 9.74 per cent last August. "There has been a far greater easing of monetary policy than commonly supposed," Mr Mayer said.

☐ Weaker overseas sales pushed up the American trade deficit to $7.3 billion in January from a revised $6.89 billion in December, the Commerce Department said.

Unemployment falls, page 1
Tempus, page 27
German gloom, page 28

Mortgage demand rises more than 40%

BY LINDSAY COOK AND GRAHAM SEARJEANT

DEMAND for building society mortgages rose by more than 40 per cent last month and commitments surged to £2.7 billion. Actual lending was more subdued, with net advances down from £528 million to £497 million, partly because borrowers are trying to reduce loans.

Many loans completed last month were applied for before the last base rate and mortgage rate cuts in January. Gross lending rose slightly to £1.9 billion.

Mark Boléat, director-general of the Building Societies Association, said commitments to housing associations to buy houses under the £750 million Autumn Statement package accounted for little of the rise. The upturn in applications in February is partly seasonal as the main spring buying season approaches. A year earlier commitments were just £16 million lower.

The Halifax Building Society said fixed rate mortgages for longer periods were particularly popular. "There is a continuous and steady increase in activity. It would look as if confidence is slowly beginning to show itself. The doubling of the stamp duty threshold should also help. Everything is in place for the key house-buying season."

Societies had a net inflow of £208 million in savings — down from the £363 million in January but a third successive inflow for the first time in a year.

Banks increased mortgage lending by £394 million in February, similar to the £402 million rise in January. Lending in the first two months rose 18 per cent on a year ago.

Total bank lending in sterling rose by only £196 million, after seasonal adjustments last month. Had the Bank of England not just revised these adjustments, the figure would have been £2.1 billion but the British Bankers Association said the low figure reflected weak loan demand.

Consumers repaid £398 million, mostly by lower credit card balances, partly reflecting the post-Christmas pattern. Banks' outstanding consumer lending is still lower than a year ago.

The wide money supply measure, reflecting bank and building society lending, rose 0.6 per cent in February, raising annual growth from 3.2 to 3.3 per cent. That is just within the Treasury's new wider target of 3-9 per cent. The narrow measure, M0, gained a seasonally adjusted 0.7 per cent in February, for a 12-month rise of 4.5 per cent. This tops the Treasury's 0-4 per cent target but in the Budget the Chancellor said this was acceptable when other monetary indicators were weak.

Annual growth of M0 would have been 4.7 per cent but for more adjustments, which led to a revision of annual growth to January down to 3.9 per cent.

Cloud no bigger than a spotted owl



ANTHONY HARRIS

Yesterday's fall in British unemployment was dismissed (by the Opposition at least) as an aberration. The White House used the same phrase of the jump in core inflation on Wednesday. Nobody had much comment to make on the 2.5 per cent jump in the US Commodity Research Bureau's futures price index on Monday, although it had been practically immobile for as long as most traders can remember. (The rise was led by foods, so the great East Coast storm could be a reason). And going back a bit, the sudden surge in American lumber prices was attributed to the spotted owl — the bird whose breeding record plays the role of the Capitoline geese to the American green lobby. It is a marker species: if the owl is in trouble, you halt timber felling.

Now it is perfectly possible that all these moves could be convincingly explained away, if only we knew enough, soon enough. But when a number of surprises all point the same way, it is time to ask whether they could not mean something after all. What they suggest is that the Anglo-American recoveries, after a delayed start, are going to prove a good deal more vigorous than the consensus forecasts: not L-shaped, but a delayed V. After all, the consensus failed to foresee the slump, so why should it get the recovery right?

They further suggest that if we are to have a better-than-expected recovery, commodity prices will be the spotted owl in the scene. This is something that any good business economist of the last two or three hundred years could have told you. When real interest rates are high and demand is flat, it is punishingly expensive to hold stocks of raw commodities: so commercial stocks are run down to a minimum, and everyone grumbles about the excessive cost of official EC or US Federal stockpiling. That is the present state of affairs in a range of materials that are not officially supported, from paper to plasterboard. They are vulnerable to any unexpected recovery in demand, or any supply shock. The price rises we have seen so far (apart from lumber) have not been dramatic, and could be no more than a sluggish response to the steep fall in interest rates. By now, prices do not have to rise far to justify the financing cost of some re-stocking.

However, the British employment figures and, more significantly, the steady upward revision of figures for American activity, suggest that there could be a demand shock too, if only a mild one. (Revisions, by the way, are quite a reliable economic indicator, because a recovery usually causes a change in the pattern of demand, and the official indices under-weight the more dynamic sectors of the economy.) There are other signs, too, of economic spring: the sharp rise in narrow money on both sides of the Atlantic, and in America at least, clear signs of revived banking confidence, which is really the key to the whole of this cycle.

Jim Grant's invaluable *Interest Rate Observer* reports that NationsBank, of Charlotte, North Carolina, has set up a group of 170 loan officers to go out and search aggressively for small-business lending opportunities. The address may fool you into thinking that this is some eccentric Deep South institution. But bank ownership in the South has changed convulsively since the Texas crash. NationsBank is now the fourth biggest bank holding company in the United States.

None of this should tempt you to rush to the conclusion that we are likely to go straight from bust to boom. Business confidence can swing dramatically, but consumers are still in deep trouble, incomes are flat, and markets are still heavily over-supplied. The new American price figures show the pattern. Prices were rising at an annual rate of 3.7 per cent in February; but this was dominated by clothing prices, as the sales ended and the industry tried it on with the new fashions, as it does every year. Durable goods prices, where competitive pressures are strongest, actually fell. Outside clothing, only non-food commodities showed any surge. In short, the American economy is still far too weak to support a commodity-led price spiral, despite half a year of recovery. But investor and long-term forecaster would still do well to keep an eye on the owl.

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Surprise Schroders profit increase gives shares a fillip

BY PATRICIA TEHAN

SCHRODERS, the City merchant bank, shrugged off recession last year, achieving a 23 per cent leap in net profits to £63.98 million. The bank is increasing its dividend by 22 per cent, to 22p — in line with a 22 per cent increase in disclosed earnings per share to 100.3p.

The stronger-than-expected profit figure, which is shown after transfers to inner reserves, sent the shares up 115p, to £18.90. Schroders also announced plans to increase liquidity in its shares, with a one-for-one split of ordinary and non-voting ordinary shares.

George Mallinckrodt, chairman, said half the profits growth came from overseas, in particular from Australia, Hong Kong and elsewhere in Asia.

Schroders' corporate finance business was hurt by low levels of activity around the world. The bank acted in 99 transactions, with a total value of £8 billion, compared with 105 in 1991, worth £17.9 billion. Last year's work included advising HSBC on its takeover of Midland Bank and working for Westdeutsche Landesbank in its acquisition of Thomas Cook. This year, Schroders has acted for Laporte, the chemicals group, in its merger with Evode. Mr Mallinckrodt said he expected merger and acquisition activity to increase as stock market conditions improved.

Schroders' investment management business shone last year, increasing its funds by 30 per cent, to £36.1 billion. New mandates included co-ordinating investment of the £2 billion raised by Wellcome Trust's sale of shares in the Wellcome pharmaceuticals group, and acting as one of the trust's investment managers.

Treasury and trading operations also performed well, though Mr Mallinckrodt said there was no large profit on the day sterling was withdrawn from the European exchange-rate mechanism. He said bigger gains came from Hong Kong and Sydney.

Despite a "moderate" loan loss provision, Schroders' banking arm stayed in profit. The bank had planned to expand its loan book but, though some customers' financial performance improved, making it unnecessary to restructure their loans, loan activity was restricted.

The volume of loans and advances slipped from £906 million to £876 million.

After ten years in operation, Schroders' venture capital business has 17 funds, totalling $1.7 billion, under management. Mr Mallinckrodt said: "Despite recession, activity in new investments was greater than in any previous year."

Confident L&G lifts earnings and payout

BY SARAH BAGNALL, INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

LEGAL & General, the UK's second-largest life insurer, reported a sharp rise in pre-tax profits, from £38.8 million to £116.1 million. The figures were helped by strong growth in life and pensions business, reduced losses from general insurance and a one-off profit from the transfer of L&G's UK fund management business.

The profits increase, which was in line with market expectations, enabled the company to increase the final dividend to 12.9p, making a 1992 total of 19.1p, against 18.8p in 1991. L&G said the dividend also reflected the expectation of continuing economic recovery.

L&G's fortunes are still being held back by losses on domestic mortgage indemnity business. They amounted to £75 million, compared with £106.1 million in 1991. A further £84 million has been set aside to strengthen reserves against future claims, taking total domestic mortgage indemnity reserves to £240 million. In the past two years, the group has paid out £50 million on domestic mortgage indemnity claims.

David Prosser, group chief executive, said the extra reserving provided a "reasonable possibility of insurance breakeven in future on the run-off of the business already on the book". Worldwide general insurance losses fell from £157.3 million to £61 million. Stripping out the domestic mortgage indemnity losses would have produced a £14 million profit. The property account made a £34 million profit, compared with a £28.6 million loss in 1991. The turnround helped to lift the shares by 16p, to 481p.

Profits from the worldwide life and pensions business rose by £24.5 million, to £150.9 million: the UK contributed £109.1 million (£103.2 million). Mr Prosser said: "The increase in UK business resulted primarily from the strong growth in single premium business." Like other insurers, L&G suffered a fall in new annual premium business, mainly because of recession.

The results were boosted by a £31.6 million profit on the transfer of the insurer's UK fund management business to its life fund. The fund management operation contributed £2.3 million to profits, on six months of business.

During 1992, the value of the shareholders' interest in the long-term life fund grew from £1.71 billion to £1.84 billion. Of that increase, £30 million was accounted for by new business written during 1992; the balance was attributed to the management of the business and the "shareholders' retained capital".

Spring Ram shares slump on warning

BY OUR CITY STAFF

PRESSURE is building up for board changes at Spring Ram, the kitchen and bathroom manufacturer, which gave warning that 1992 results due on Monday would show pre-tax profits down to £26 million from £36 million.

The shares plummeted from 129p to 63p when dealings re-opened yesterday after Wednesday's suspension. Analysts blamed the fall on a loss of management credibility.

The company blamed poor trading conditions and changes in accounting policies to comply with FRS3 for the fall in profits. Depreciation of its factories and the deferral of the benefit of government grants account for £3.3 million of the shortfall, while higher-than-anticipated start-up and development costs reduced profits by £4 million. The company says profits of £5.6 million on certain contracts expected last year will fall into 1993. Brokers were mystified by the decision to suspend dealings on Wednesday.

Spring Ram's investors have taken a rollercoaster ride since the £11 million float in 1983. At its peak, the company was worth £650 million but at present levels Spring Ram is valued at £232 million. Yesterday's price collapse puts the company on a price earnings ratio of ten , on forecasts of 1993 profits of £35 million.

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Looking for further progress in 1993: Sir David Alliance, Coats Viyella chairman

Coats fashions 13% increase

BY GEORGE SIVELL, CITY EDITOR

COATS Viyella, the textiles group, saw its shares rise 11p to 245p yesterday after reporting a 13 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £109 million for the year to end-December.

The total dividend rises to 7.25p (7.0p), on earnings up 2 per cent to 10.2p a share.

Sir David Alliance, chairman, said the "Tootal integration has progressed as planned". It is included in the 1991 results for seven months and for all of 1992. Of the £67 million set aside to reorganise Tootal on acquisition, £31 million was used in 1991 and £22 million in 1992. The remaining £14 million will be spent on industrial threads and crafts during 1993.

On prospects, Sir David says: "We expect to make further financial progress in 1993, helped by sterling's devaluation and lower interest rates."

Adopting the FRS3 accounting standard and the principles outlined in FRED3, the exposure draft on accounting for financial instruments, meant a restatement of 1991 profits from £111.4 million to £96.7 million, mainly due to £12.3 million in financing costs. These arose from treating a euroconvertible preference share issue as debt and counting the associated dividend and accrued redemption premium as interest charges.

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Merger benefits for Reed

BY MARTIN WALLER
DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

REED International, the publishing group, has announced the first fruits of its merger with its Dutch counterpart Elsevier, a set of pro forma figures showing the two groups would have racked up combined pre-tax profits of £412 million in 1992, a rise of 19 per cent, had they been merged throughout the year.

Reed itself raised profits from £124.4 million to £137.1 million in the nine months to end-December, after which the merger took effect. The final dividend for that period is 7.25p, giving a nine-month total of 12.75p, an effective increase of 6 per cent.

Reed's progress came after a strong 26 per cent profits rise, to £50.4 million, from the consumer-publishing division after a return to profit in the television-listings sector. This was in spite of a 24 per cent fall from exhibitions, to £7.3 million, and an 18 per cent decline from travel and information services, to £35.1 million.

Peter Davis, the Reed chairman, said most of the profit increase came from strong market positions Reed enjoyed and greater efficiency.

Both Mr Davis and his counterpart at Elsevier, Pierre Vinken, admit that in the current year much of the benefit of the merger will be masked by restructuring costs. However the 1993 performance should again show an improvement and results from the first two months supported this expectation.

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Automated Security accelerates

BY PHILIP PANGALOS

AUTOMATED Security (Holdings), the electronic-security and loss-prevention group, announced a sharp jump in profits reported under the new FRS3 accounting standard, although trading conditions in Britain and America remain difficult.

Pre-tax profits, under FRS3, advanced to £45.1 million in the 12 months to end-November, against a restated profit of £3.3 million last time.

Total turnover declined to £173 million (£194 million), with turnover from continuing operations ahead to £132 million (£129 million). Earnings per share stood at 8.8p pro forma, with reported earnings of 25.8p (6.6p restated loss). The shares lost 6p to 156p.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Utilities' figures hit by accounting ruling

BRITISH Telecom and three other privatised utilities are to take a hit on profits running into millions of pounds as a result of an Accounting Standards Board ruling on how companies should account for the profit or loss arising from the repurchase of their own debt.

Last year, the electricity companies and distributors were invited to bid for more than £3 billion-worth of debt carried on their balance-sheets. Because the fixed coupon was above the rates prevailing at the time of auction, the companies paid a premium. This has to be taken against profits in the year the debt was repurchased, the ASB has says.

Cattle's advances

CATTLE'S Holdings, the financial services and weekly credit collection group, reported a 27 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £12.4 million despite a drop in turnover from £244.7 million to £217.8 million for the year to end December 1992. The final was lifted from 2.3p to 2.6p, making 4.2p (3.8p). Last May shareholders received a 0.5p special interim, reflecting the profitable part sale of Rosebys, which resulted in a £1.4 million extraordinary profit in the 1992 figures.

Telemetrix doubles

A STRONG input from America helped Telemetrix, the electronics and information systems group, more than double pre-tax profits to £9.8 million (£4.1 million) in the year to end-December. GTI, its 61 per cent owned American subsidiary, doubled profits, from increased sales of Valor computer networking products. Group turnover rose 17 per cent to £98.2 million (£83.7 million). Earnings per share were 5p (1.7p). There is a single 0.8p dividend (0.6p).

Rotork raises payout

STEADY demand from the water and oil industries helped Rotork, the valve manufacturer, to raise pre-tax profits 11 per cent to £10.5 million in 1992, with sales up from £51 million to £57 million. Tom Eassie, chief executive of Rotork, says trading conditions were difficult last year but order books in 1993 are appreciably up on a year earlier. The dividend is being increased 11 per cent to 11.15p and is covered by earnings per share of 22.7p, up from 20.7p last year.

Recession slows BMW



BMW, the German carmaker, saw group net profit dip DM57 million to DM726 million last year as currency market turmoil and recession depressed demand. The group, which has persistently outshone its main German rivals, said it would keep its dividend at DM12.5 on common shares and DM13.5 on preference shares. The outline results were accompanied by news that Eberhard von Kuenheim, right, who has steered the company to pole position in German carmaking, is to hand over the chair in May to Bernd Pischetsrieder.

Charles Baynes buys

CHARLES Baynes, the engineer and packaging distributor, is buying Thompson Valves for £7.9 million, partly financed by a vendor placing of 12.5 million ordinary shares at 55p to raise £6.8 million net. It is also buying Industrial Precision Castings for £1.9 million. Baynes made a pre-tax profit of £5.6 million (£4.5 million) in the year to end-December. Adjusted earnings per share were 2.80p (3.91p). A final dividend of 0.9p (0.85p) makes a total 1.425p (1.35p).

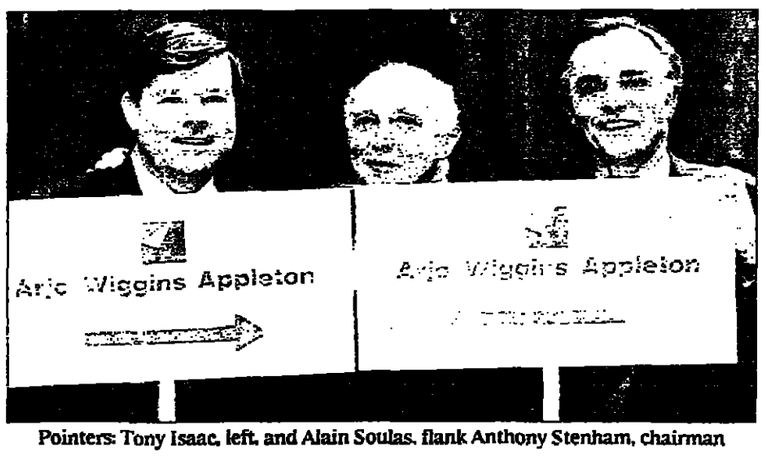
Record for Vinten

VINTEN Group, the optical and camera equipment manufacturer, lifted pre-tax profits 11.5 per cent to a record £10.2 million in 1992 despite difficult trading. Malcolm Baggott, chief executive, said the profits had been achieved by the international spread of its business, strong market positions and the successful integration of recent acquisitions. Earnings rose 5.9 per cent to 21.7p (20.5p) a share. The total dividend is 7p (6.6p), with a proposed final 5.1p (4.8p).

US bankruptcies rise

AMERICAN personal and corporate bankruptcies hit a record in 1992 for the eighth consecutive year. But officials of the American Bankruptcy Institute (ABI) said the trend was slowing. Last year showed only a 2.9 per cent rise from 1991 against a 20.6 per cent jump recorded over 1990. Charles Tatelbaum, vice-president of the ABI said: "This is an encouraging sign." Of the 971,517 total, 900,874 were filed by individuals and 70,643 by corporations.

European price cuts shrink earnings at Arjo Wiggins



Pointers: Tony Isaac, left, and Alain Soulas, flank Anthony Stenham, chairman

BY CARL MORTISHED

PRICE-cutting in European markets is hurting Arjo Wiggins Appleton, the Franco-British paper products group, whose profits fell 31 per cent to £161 million in 1992. The loss of earnings, which fell from 18p to 11.6p per share, has led to a 24 per cent cut in final dividend to 3.85p, reducing the total for the year to 6.5p, compared with 8.35p.

Arjo shares fell 6p to 158p on the announcement, but recovered to 164p. Alain Soulas, the new chief executive, has agreed to accomodate the dividend concerns of UK institutions who jibbed at a 20 per cent cut in the interim payout; earnings cover has fallen to 1.9 times from the stated policy of 2 to 2.5 times the level of dividend. "Given the level of capital expenditure and the poor trading conditions, we have agreed to be more flexible" said Tony Isaac, finance director.

However, some analysts think the dividend has further to fall, with warnings from Arjo that overcapacity for paper products is likely to continue over the next 18 months. Pricing pressure from high-volume producers of paper in Scandinavia hit Arjo's operating profits in Europe, which fell 48 per cent to £75 million despite growth in sales from £1.19 billion to £1.25 billion. According to Mr Soulas, the fall in sterling has had a negative effect on Arjo, with France a major exporter of banknote paper to De La Rue in the UK. In America, where Arjo commands over 50 per cent of the carbonless market, operating profits grew from £104 million to £117 million.

Volumes in paper merchanting improved but profits slipped from £17.5 million to £15.5 million due to redundancy costs. Arjo's capital investment programme is to continue with £190 million spending this year, which will make £1 billion since 1991, taking gearing above 30 per cent from its 24 per cent year-end level.

COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF

SURFORD HLDGS (Fin)
Pre-tax: £52,000
LPS: 0.29p (EPS: 0.04p)
Div: 0.65p, mkg 1.15p
Last time's profit was £698,000. Last time's total dividend was 1p. There was an exceptional loss of £3.7m. NAV: 52.4p (52.5p).

CRESTACARE (Fin)
Pre-tax: £1.49m Loss
LPS: 1.8p (18.2p)
Div: 0.4p, mkg 0.5p
Last time's restated loss was £13.2m. Last time's total dividend was 0.7p. There was an exceptional loss of £2.54m.

EDMOND HOLDINGS (Fin)
Pre-tax: £1.15m Loss
LPS: 1.52p (EPS: 2.41p)
Div: 0.15p, mkg 0.5p
Last time's profit was £1.73m. Last time's total dividend was 1.85p. There was an exceptional charge of £673,000.

E GREEN & PARTNERS
Pre-tax: £302,000
EPS: 2.8p (4.6p)
Div: 2.75p (2.75p)
Interim results. Last time's profit was £468,000. Turnover dropped to £3.64m (£4.03m). Net assets per share stood at 82p.

REA BROTHERS GROUP
Pre-tax: £805,000
EPS: 0.82p (LPS: 0.42p)
Div: 0.25p, mkg 0.5p
Final results. Last time's profit was £261,000. Last time's total dividend was 0.5p. There was a bad debt provision of £191,000.

SEAFIELD RESOURCES
Pre-tax: £1.06m
EPS: 1.7p (0.6p)
Div: None
Final results. Comparative figures are for previous 15-month period. Last time's profit was £256,000. Turnover grew to £5.55m (£5.41m).



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Pollution ruling threat to insurance

The House of Lords is set to rule on a UK environmental pollution case that threatens to trigger severe problems for the insurance industry. Eastern County Leatherworks, a leather tannery, has been given leave to appeal against a court of appeal ruling that awarded damages of more than £1 million to Cambridge Water Company as compensation for the contamination of a water aquifer by the accidental spillage of a dry-cleaning fluid. If an appeals court decision is upheld premiums could be increased across the board.

Names plea

Another action group is being formed by loss-making Lloyd's names to try to secure compensation for insurance losses stretching over four years of account. More than 6,000 names, who lost on syndicates 367, 411, 1097 and 1152, which were formerly managed by FLP Secretan, are being asked to pay a £250 subscription.

Rolls order

USAir, the American domestic carrier in which British Airways acquired a strategic stake, has placed firm orders for Rolls-Royce engines for a further 15 Boeing 757-200 twin-engined airliners and taken options on another 15. The business is worth about £125 million to Rolls-Royce.

Cadbury return

Cadbury Schweppes, the confectionery and soft drinks group, is to have a member of the founding Cadbury family back in the chair after a four-year break. Sir Graham Day, who retires after the annual meeting on May 5, will be replaced by the current chief executive, Dominic Cadbury.

News Corp files

The News Corporation, the international media group that owns *The Times*, has prepared the way for potential future debt issues of up to $1 billion by filing a shelf registration with the US Securities and Exchange Commission covering possible issues in one or more series.

Insurer boost

Trade Indemnity, Britain's leading credit insurer, was able to reduce its pre-tax loss by more than £41.7 million to £4.9 million last year and expects improvement in the economy this year to produce still better results, Peter Dugdale, the chairman, said.

Canada buy

Royal Bank of Canada, in a C$1.65 billion deal that will increase its asset base by about 10 per cent, has agreed to buy the Canadian and international assets of Royal Trustco.

Watchdog urges more information on commissions

BY SARA MCCONNELL

Compulsory disclosure of charges should restrain increases and even encourage companies to compete by setting them lower, believes Sir Bryan Carsberg

INVESTMENT regulators were told by Sir Bryan Carsberg, the director-general of fair trading, to rework their rules, forcing life offices and independent financial advisers to give investors more information on how much of their money is eaten up in commissions and expenses.

However, banks, building societies and other insurance company agents, selling only one company's policies, would not have to disclose commissions.

In his report to the Chancellor, Sir Bryan identified as "significantly anti-competitive" four areas of the proposed disclosure rules drawn up by the Securities and Investments Board and the Life Assurance and Unit Trust Regulatory Organisation last year.

He rejected existing rules, under which advisers need only disclose commission to investors some weeks after policies are bought, unless specifically asked. Sir Bryan called for disclosure of commission at point of sale, in cash terms. He said: "The commission which an adviser receives and which is paid for indirectly by the investor — for whom the adviser acts as agent — can be regarded as the price for the advice which the investor receives. Without early, automatic disclosure of commission, in actual cash amounts, an investor will not know the price of advice."

The amount of an investment taken by commission had risen significantly in recent years, Sir Bryan said, sometimes by more than 30 per cent for a 25-year policy.

Compulsory disclosure of charges should restrain increases and encourage companies to compete by offering lower charges. Life offices should also be required to tell investors how much they would get back from policies surrendered, not just in the first five years, as now, but at any time before maturity. Surrender penalties varied greatly from company to company; some investors surrendering before maturity got back more money than others.

Actual rather than industry standard administration costs should be used in illustrations showing possible future returns. At present, life offices' actual costs are disclosed on separate forms. Sir Bryan said: "The rules limit the ability of prospective investors to assess the effects of an office's level of costs, because investors cannot calculate how the illustration would look if the office's current cost level were substituted for the standard level."

Life offices should also be allowed to charge different prices for policies sold through different agents, to reflect the greater expense of selling through some outlets than others. That should encourage offices to sell policies through the most cost-effective outlets.

Sir Bryan rejected claims from independent financial advisers that tied agents should also have to disclose commission. He said trying to work out an equivalent commission would be difficult because agents had other incentives, such as company cars, bonus payments and help with back office costs.

Life companies expressed "regret and disappointment" at the proposals in the report, which they described as "flawed". Brian Richardson, chairman of the life insurance council at the Association of British Insurers, said: "There is a danger of overkill by regulation and excessive disclosure, which could add significantly to the insurance industry's costs."

DENZIL McNEELANCE



Fuelled up: Clive Thompson reported cash reserves of £60 million, despite acquisitions costing £20 million last year

Rentokil lifts payout to offset Budget

BY MARTIN WALLER, DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

THE Chancellor's Budget measures prompted Rentokil, the environmental services group, to a higher-than-expected payout, to compensate for the decision to cut dividend tax credits.

Clive Thompson, chief executive, said the net final payout for 1992 was being set at 1.67p, making a total of 2.31p, a 36.5 per cent increase on the adjusted 1991 figure. Shareholders receiving dividends gross of tax, such as most City institutions, will therefore see a 30.4 per cent increase, in line with Rentokil's earnings per share growth of 28.6 per cent. The group announced profits of £122.4 million, up from £94.6 million in 1991. The additional payout will cost the company about £1 million.

Rentokil ended the year with £60 million in cash, despite spending £20 million on 17 acquisitions. The figures were not presented using the new FRS3 accounting standard. Had this been done, the pre-tax line would have been reduced by £7.6 million — the cost of cleaning up a polluted site in America — and Rentokil would have met its 20 per cent annual earnings growth target only by virtue of an £8.8 million gain from exchange rate movements.

Bank stopgap urged in wake of Taurus

BY GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

THIRTY institutions in the securities industry have called on the Bank of England to set up a basic electronic settlement system solely for institutional investors. This would act, as a stopgap to restore confidence in London among international investors in the wake of the collapse of the Stock Exchange's comprehensive Taurus project.

In a joint statement sent to the Bank of England task force, set up last week, they argue that a rolling settlement procedure ensuring payment ten days after share deals are struck could work within present systems, which settle deals made within a fortnightly account on one day. Rolling settlement could be faster once share certificates did not have to move between investors.

The group says eliminating share certificates should be a long-term objective. Immobilising share certificates would be more immediately cost-effective. Options for a stopgap include improving the institutional net settlement system (INS) and developing an electronic share system from the Bank's Central Gilts Office. Arrangements for shares would be more complex, since dividends and payment dates vary.

Terry Pearson, senior securities adviser at the Royal Bank of Scotland, speaking for the group, said: "The swiftness with which the statement has been prepared and the input received by all those involved illustrates the industry's commitment to finding an efficient and cost-effective replacement for Taurus."

As a longer-term project, the group suggests the Bank set up a clearing house, which could later be privatised, for settlement of institutional share deals. This might incorporate INS. It could operate a central nominee shareholder or aid movements of holdings on companies' share registers. This could bring delivery of shares against payment. Along with rolling settlement, this is the industry's main objective to cut payment risks.

UB crumbles in cookie war

BY GEORGE SIVELL, CITY EDITOR



Nicoli: better prospects

A COOKIE war in America sent profits at United Biscuits down by 18 per cent, to £162.3 million, in the year to January 2. The dividend for the year, however, has been left unchanged at 15.3p, out of earnings per share down from 28.1p to 22.4p.

But United, headed by Eric Nicoli, chief executive, says the current year has started well and all its businesses are significantly up on last year, including Keebler, the American business. United's shares rose 11p to 399p.

Keebler operating profits fell from £65.6 million to £26.2 million, on sales up 7 per cent to £1,050.6 million. United Biscuits suffered in the mid-eighties from a cookie war at Keebler, caused by Procter & Gamble entering the market with the soft cookie. But the present war, which brings to an end six years of profits growth, has been caused by recession: Consumers have turned to cheaper items and own-label products. Marketing costs soared, reducing profit margins from 6.6 to 2.5 per cent. United expects a substantial bounce in Keebler's profits this year.

United has recently sold Terry's, the British confectionery group, for £220 million and bought Derwent Valley, Bake-Line Products and Smith's Snackfoods. The company has only one other acquisition in its sights — Royal Brands, the Spanish biscuits group. If that went ahead, gearing would still only be in the mid-40s.

McVitie's British profits rose from £92.1 million to £92.7 million and its overseas profits from £14.6 million to £19.1 million. KP Foods rose from £43.5 million to £44.8 million. Ross Young's, which was once put up for sale, rose 4 per cent, to £28.5 million. Terry's, now sold, contributed £13.4 million, a fall of 6 per cent.

Tempus, page 27

Davis Service Group bucks trading trend

BY PHILIP PANGALOS

DAVIS Service Group continued to buck the difficult trading conditions as substantially reduced interest charges helped the textile maintenance and businesses services group to a 21 per cent advance in full-year profits.

The company, which has virtually severed its links with motor-related activities, saw pre-tax profits, prepared in accordance with the FRS3 accounting standard, climb to £17.5 million in the year to end-December — despite turnover down 20 per cent to £247 million (£309 million). The results include only a partial contribution from the former motor-related interests. The group sold three of its dealerships in 1991, while the Godfrey Davis (Contract Hire) operation was sold last April.

Interest charges were reduced to £2.91 million (£11.7 million), with gearing down to 11 per cent at the year-end.

Earnings, under FRS3, rose to 14.36p (9.77p) a share. The total dividend is being maintained at 7.98p, with final payout unchanged at 5.25p.

The shares firmed 3p to 227p.

BAYER AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT

The Annual General Meeting of Bayer Aktiengesellschaft will be held on 28th April, 1993 in Cologne. Payment of a Dividend of 22% for the year 1992 will be proposed.

Copies of the Company's Annual Report for 1992 in English will be available from S.G. Warburg & Co. Ltd.

United Kingdom Shareholders who wish to attend and vote at the Annual General Meeting should by 20th April, 1993, inform S.G. Warburg & Co. Ltd., Paying Agency, 2 Finsbury Avenue, London EC2M 2PA who will make the necessary arrangements on their behalf.

Under Section 125 of the German Companies Act, the Board of Management is only obliged to provide information on proposals and nominations that may be made by shareholders if the parties concerned prove their standing as shareholders in good time.

BAYER AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT

19th March, 1993

Forte Crest announce the arrival of Business Class.

Business Class has certainly taken off at Forte Crest. It covers a full range of benefits and services. In fact you won't find a better value four star hotel in the UK. Because if you're not completely satisfied, we'll pay for your next night with us. It's what we call our Satisfaction Guarantee. And that's a real departure from the competition. To experience our Business Class, call 0800 40 40 40. Or contact your travel agent.

FORTE CREST

In a business class of its own

STOCK MARKET

Shares caught in post-Budget trance

THE equity market gave the impression of being left in shock by this week's Budget proposals.

Not even the long-awaited cut in German interest rates nor an early rise of more than 30 points in the Dow Jones industrial average on Wall Street was enough to snap investors out of their apparent trance-like state.

The FT-SE 100 index ended a laboured session 10.2 points down at 2,879.7 with fund managers still giving careful consideration to the Chancellor's proposals to alter the treatment for ACT and reduce tax credits on dividends for pension funds.

But closer inspection revealed that trading conditions were more technical than first impressions indicated. Market-makers were anxious to keep a lid on events as they squared up positions ahead of the expiry of the March series of the FT-SE 100 index traded options today.

As a result, investors decided to focus their attention on the long list of trading statements. This helped boost turnover to 706 million shares.

But there were a few bright spots. Property shares attracted support as at least one institution had a change of heart. There were gains for takeover favourite **Hammerson**, up 8p at 416p, **MEPC**, 13p at 418p, **Tops Estates**, 8p at 153p, and **Southend Properties**, 5p to 73p.

Food retailers were under a cloud with one securities house preparing to publish a bearish review of the sector. **Argyll** slipped 2½p to 372½p, **Iceland** 8p to 731p, **Kwik Save** 5p to 833p, **J Sainsbury** 3p to 515p, **Shoprite** 8p to 700p and **Tesco** 9p to 243p. In contrast, speculative buying lifted **Nurdin & Peacock** another 7p to 225p.

Shares of **Spring Ram**, the kitchen and bathroom equipment group, were more than halved after their return from suspension, plunging 66p to 63p after issuing another profits warning.

Redland was one company to benefit from the news of the cut in German interest rates. Redland has substantial interests in Germany and is expected to make the most of a major building programme initiated since reunification. The shares jumped 11p to 470p, while **Rugby**, which also enjoys a large presence in Germany, firmed 1p to 241p.

Full-year figures from **Legal & General**, showing pre-tax profits recovering from £38 million to £116 million, were well received by analysts. The shares responded with a rise of 17p to 482p. The news from *Legal* also boosted the rest of the sector, with **Britannic** up 22p to £13.45, **Lloyds Abbey** 6p to 440p, **London & Manchester** 11p to 355p, **Prudential** 5p to 338p and **Refuge** 10p to £10.28. It was also said to have been responsible for attracting support to **Royal Insurance**, 10p better at 318p.

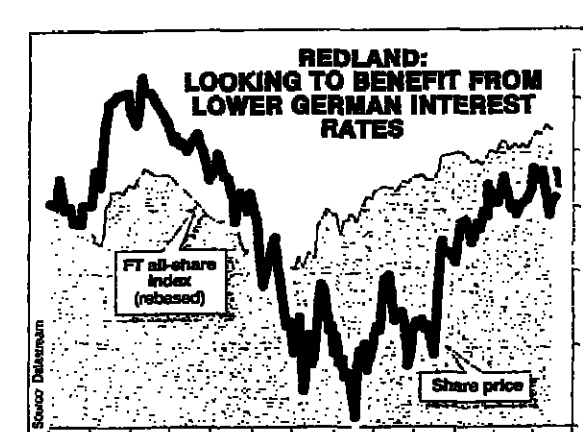
Reed Elsevier, the publisher, responded to better than expected trading news with a rise of 13p to 656p.

Coats Viyella jumped 11p to 245p, cheered by news of a rise in the dividend and an increase in full-year profits. But news of a drop in profits from £900 million to £795 million left **Guinness** 19p off at 466p, while **United Biscuits** managed to make headway despite a profits setback with a rise of 11p to 399p. **Arjo Wiggins** managed to end 5p firmer at 169p, in spite of a cut in the dividend and warnings that trading conditions are likely to continue deteriorating into 1994.

MICHAEL CLARK

Fund managers are expecting some good news soon from British Aerospace, 2p firmer at 280p. Analysts last night embarked on a visit to its Rover subsidiary to take a look at the new Rover 600 series which is still under wraps. BAe expects the car to be a *big earner.*

Hartstone, the handbags to hoisery group, remains under a cloud following the profits warning. The shares touched *143p yesterday before closing* 1p firmer at 137p. We should hear soon that one non-executive director has taken advantage of the weakness to top up his holding.



WALL STREET

American shares traded higher in late morning dealings, buoyed by a bounce in Tokyo and the cut in the Bundesbank discount rate. The Dow Jones industrial average was 25.39 points better at 3,452.17. Oil shares led the way up. Market interest once again focused selectively on financially sensitive and cyclical shares.

☐ **Tokyo** — The Nikkei average closed up 554.53 points to a new high of 18,727.90.

☐ *Hong Kong — The Hang Seng index closed 92.93 point better at 6,051.26*

(Reuter)

	Mar 18 midday	Mar 17 close
AMP Inc	60	60
AMR Corp	60	59
Abbott Labs	25	25
Aetna Life	48	48
Ahmanson (HF)	20	20
Air Prod & Chem	43	44
Albertson's	53	52
Alcan Alumnm	19	18
Alco Standard	45	44
Allied Signal	68	67
Alum Co of Am	71	70
Amax	19	19
Amerada Hess	52	52
Amer Brands	33	33
Amer Cyanamid	50	50
Amer El Power	35	35
Amer Express	27	27
Amer Genl Corp	31	30
Amer Home Pr	62	62
Amer Intl	125	123
Amer Stores	41	40
Amer T & T	57	57
Amerltech	76	75
Amoco	56	55
Anheuser-Busch	51	53
Apple Computer	55	55
Archer Daniels	26	25
Arkla	8	8
Armco	7	7
Armstrng Wrld	33	33
Asarco	24	23
Ashland Oil	28	28
Atl Richfield	118	118
Auto Data Pro	53	53
Avery Dennison	27	27
Avon Products	63	63
Baker Hughes	23	23
Baltim Gas & El	25	25
Banc One	53	53
BankAmerica	52	52
Bank of NY	58	58
Bankers Tr NY	73	73
Barnett Banks	46	46
Bausch & Lomb	55	55
Baxter Intl	29	30
Bectn Dicknsn	37	36
Bell Atlantic	52	53
BellSouth	54	54
Black & Decker	17	18
Block (H&R)	38	37
Boeing	34	34
Boise Cascade	25	25
Borden Inc	26	26
Bristol Myrs Sq	56	56
Browning Ferris	25	27
Burlington Nthn	49	48
CBS	206	206
CNA Financial	93	92
CPC Intl	45	45
CSX	68	68
Campbell Soup	44	44
Can Pacific	14	14
Cpd Cities ABC	527	530
Cpd Holdings	76	77
Carolina Pwr	32	32
Caterpillar	58	57
Central & SW	32	32
Champion Intl	31	31
Chase Manhat	35	35
Chemical Bk	41	42
Chevron Corp	79	79
Chrysler	39	39
Chubb Corp	91	90
Cigna Corp	61	61
Citicorp	29	29
Clorox	50	51
Coastal Corp	26	25
Coca Cola	43	42
Colgate-Palmolive	65	65
Columbia Gas	23	23
Commonw Ed	27	27
Compaq Comp	49	49
Comp Ass Intl	24	24
Conagra	27	27
Cons Edison	35	35
Cons Nat Gas	48	48
Cons Rail	57	56
Cooper Inds	53	52
Corning Inc	34	34
Crown Cork	39	39
Dana Corp	44	45
Dayton Hudson	81	80
Deere	53	53
Delta Air Lines	50	49
Deluxe Corp	42	42
Detroit Edison	34	34
Digital Equip	46	45
Dillard Dept St	44	43
Disney (Walt)	44	44
Dominion Res	43	43
Donnelley (RR)	30	29
Dover Corp	49	50
Dow Chemicals	53	52
Dow Jones	32	33
Dresser	19	19
Duke Power	38	38
Dun & Brdstreet	60	59
Du Pont	47	46
Eastman Kodak	54	54
Eaton Corp	83	84

	Mar 18 midday	Mar 17 close
Emerson Elec	59	59
Engelhard Corp	43	42
Enron Corp	61	62
Entergy Corp	35	35
Ethyl Corp	28	28
Exxon	64	64
FMC Corp	48	48
FPL Group	37	37
Federal Express	57	57
Fed Nat Mtge	82	81
First Chicago	42	42
First Interstate	56	55
First Union Rlty	11	11
Fleet Finl Grp	37	37
Fluor Corp	43	43
Ford Motor	50	48
GTE Corp	36	36
Gannett	51	51
Gap Inc Del	32	32
Gen Cinema	35	35
Gen Dynamics	118	117
Gen Electric	88	87
Gen Mills	73	72
Gen Motors	39	38
Gen Reinsurance	117	116
Gen Signal	64	63
Genuine Parts	35	34
Georgia Pac	63	63
Gillette	59	59
Glaxo ADR	18	18
Goodrich (BF)	47	46
Goodyear Tire	74	74
Grace (W&R)	38	37
Grt Atl Pac Tea	23	23
Great Wstn Fin	18	18
Halliburton	36	36
Heinz (HJ)	41	41
Hercules	74	75
Hershey Foods	53	53
Hewlett Packard	76	76
Hilton Hotels	48	48
Home Depot	64	64
Homestake	13	13
Honeywell	32	32
Household Intl	70	69
Houston Inds	46	46
Humana	8	7
ITT Corp	78	78
Illinois Tool	74	74
INCO	23	22
Ingersoll Rand	31	31
Inland Steel	22	22
Intel Corp	116	114
IBM	54	54
Intl Flav & Fr	115	115
Intl Paper	64	64
James River Va	19	18
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	40	40
K Mart	25	24
Kellogg	64	64
Kerr-McGee	47	47
Kimberly-Clark	55	56
Knight-Ridder	57	57
Lilly (Eli)	47	47
Limited Inc	24	24
LIN Brdcstng	84	83
Lincoln Nat	77	77
Litton	51	52
Liz Claiborne	35	35
Lockheed Corp	61	61
Louisiana Pac	71	71
MCI Commun	43	43
Marriott	26	26
Marsh & McLnn	92	91
Martin Marietta	72	70
Masco Corp	33	33
May Dept St	76	76
Maytag Corp	15	15
McCaw Cellular	37	37
McDonalds	52	52
McDonnell D	54	57
McGraw Hill	61	61
Mead Corp	43	43
Medtronic	72	71
Mellon Bk	60	60
Melville Corp	48	48
Merck Inc	36	36
Merrill Lynch	71	71
Minnesota Mine	109	108
Mobil Corp	69	69
Monsanto	52	52
Morgan (JP)	68	67
Motorola Inc	64	64
Natl Medical	9	9
Natl Semi	13	13
Natl Service Ind	25	25
Navistar Intl	2	2
NBD Bancorp	35	35
NY Times A	30	30
Newmont Mng	42	41
Niag Mohawk	22	21
Nike B	76	75
NL Industries	5	4
Nordstrom	31	31
Norfolk Sthrn	64	63
Nthn State Pwr	46	46
Norwest Corp	49	49
Nynex Corp	89	88
Occidental Pet	21	21
Ohio Edison	24	24

	Mar 18 midday	Mar 17 close
Oracle Systems	35	35
Oryx Energy Co	23	23
PNC Financial	33	32
PPG Industries	66	66
Paccar Inc	61	61
Pacificorp	18	17
Pac Enterprises	22	22
Pac Gas & Elect	34	34
Pac Telesis	48	47
Pall Corp	17	17
Panhandle East	22	22
Paramnt Commn	48	48
Parker Hannifin	32	31
Penney (JC)	87	86
Pennzoil	55	55
Pepsico	41	41
Pfizer	59	58
Phelps Dodge	52	52
Philadel Elec	29	29
Philip Morris	64	64
Phillips Pet	28	28
Pitney Bowes	42	42
Polaroid	28	28
Price Co	33	33
Primerica	46	46
Procter & Gmbl	52	52
Pub Serv E & G	33	32
Quaker Oats	66	66
Ralston Purina	50	50
Raychem Corp	41	41
Raytheon	56	55
Reebok Intl	37	36
Reynolds Metals	52	51
Roadway Srvcs	62	61
Rockwell Intl	29	29
Rohm & Haas	56	56
Royal Dutch	86	86
Rubbermaid	33	33
Safeco Corp	62	61
St Paul's Cos	81	80
Salomon Inc	40	39
Santa Fe S Pac	13	13
Sara Lee Corp	29	29
Scecorp	48	48
Schering Plough	57	57
Schlumberger	59	59
Scott Paper	38	38
Seagram	27	27
Sears Roebuck	52	50
Shell Trans	51	50
Sherwin Wlms	32	31
Skyline Corp	20	20
Snap-On-Tools	32	32
Southern Co	41	40
Sthwestern Bell	71	72
Sprint Corp	30	30
Stanley Works	43	43
Sun Company	27	27
Suntrust	47	46
Supervalu	31	32
Syntex Corp	18	18
Sysco Corp	26	26
TRW Inc	62	62
Tandem Comp	13	13
Tandy Corp	26	26
Telecom Corp	2	2
Teledyne	22	22
Temple Inland	48	48
Tenneco	47	47
Texaco	63	62
Texas Inst	59	59
Texas Utilities	44	44
Textron	45	44
Time Warner	34	34
Times-Mirror	33	33
Timken	29	29
Torchmark	61	60
Toys R Us	41	41
Transamerica	49	49
Travelers Corp	27	26
Tribune	56	56
Tyco Labs	45	44
UAL Corp	115	114
UST Inc	29	28
USX Marathon	20	19
Unilever NV	115	114
Union Camp	44	44
Union Carbide	16	16
Union Pacific	58	58
Unisys Corp	13	13
USAir Group	17	17
USF&G Corp	15	14
US Life	39	39
US West	42	41
United Tech	46	47
Unocal Corp	27	27
Upjohn	27	27
VF Corp	52	52
Wal-Mart Stores	33	33
Warner-Lambert	68	67
Waste Mgmnt Inc	35	35
Wells Fargo	106	106
Westinghouse El	13	13
Weyerhaeuser	42	42
Whirlpool	53	53
Whitman	14	14
Winn Dixie	70	69
Woolworth	31	30
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	33	33
Xerox	82	82

BRITISH FUNDS

GOVERNMENT securities enjoyed another active session as fund managers continued switching out of the equity market following changes in the Budget to dividend tax credits and ACT.

Attention was again focused at the longer end, where prices rose by more than £1. Index-linked stocks attracted support, with stock shortages exaggerating price movements. The Bank of England sold remaining supplies of the two tranches of stock issued this week. The best gains were recorded among conventional issues at the longer end. Treasury 9 per cent 2012 leapt £1¹/₁₆ to £107⅝. At the shorter end Exchequer 9¾ per cent 1998 added just three ticks to £113³/₁₆.

In further heavy activity on *the futures market, the June* series Long Gilt ended £1¹/₁₆ better at £107¹/₁₆ as 52,000 contracts were completed.

1992/93 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
		SHORTS (under 5 years)				
104	100	Treas 12½% 1993	102	...	12.23	5.69
100	95	Fund 6% 1993	100	..	5.99	5.56
107	103	Treas 13¾% 1993	105	-	13.04	5.53
102	96	Treas 8¼% 1994	102	...	8.29	5.54
110	104	Treas 14½% 1994	108	-	13.39	5.50
110	103	Exch 13½% 1994	108	-	12.46	5.71
105	98	Treas 10% 1994	105	-	9.52	5.69
110	103	Exch 12½% 1994	109	...	11.44	5.71
105	96	Treas 9% 1994	105	-	8.57	5.78
111	102	Treas 12% 1995	110	-	10.84	5.83
96	88	Gas 3% 1990-95	96	-	3.11	4.76
109	99	Exch 10¼% 1995	109	...	9.37	5.91
116	106	Treas 12¾% 1995	116	-	10.96	6.03
120	109	Treas 14% 1996	120	...	11.67	6.23
125	113	Treas 15¼% 1996	124	...	12.21	6.36
120	108	Exch 13¼% 1996	119	...	11.09	6.36
111	98	Conv 10% 1996	111	-	9.00	6.51
122	109	Treas 13¼% 1997	122	-	10.86	6.64
113	100	Exch 10½% 1997	113	-	9.28	6.62
108	94	Treas 8¾% 1997	108	-	8.10	6.60
132	117	Exch 15% 1997	131	-	11.39	6.84
112	97	Exch 9¾% 1998	112	...	8.70	6.76
		MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)				
103	98	Treas 7¼% 1998	102	-	7.14	6.58
101	89	Treas 6¾% 1995-98	100	+	6.71	6.59
138	123	Treas 15½% 1998	137	...	11.24	7.09
122	107	Exch 12% 1998	121	...	9.85	7.21
112	97	Treas 9½% 1999	111	-	8.50	6.98
124	109	Exch 12¼% 1999	123	+	9.88	7.26
117	101	Treas 10½% 1999	116	...	9.00	7.09
117	100	Conv 10¼% 1999	116	+	8.82	7.14
110	94	Conv 9% 2000	110	+	8.15	7.07
131	114	Treas 13% 2000	130	+	9.96	7.48
115	99	Treas 10% 2001	115	+	8.70	7.43
129	115	Treas 14% 1998-01	128	...	10.88	7.25
114	98	Treas 9¾% 2002	114	+	8.54	7.60
53	46	Treas 8pc 2003	52	+	7.77	7.55
116	100	Treas 10% 2003	115	+	8.64	7.75

1992/93 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
122	107	Treas 11¾% 2001-04	122	+	9.41	7.70
74	59	Fund 3½% 1999-04	74	+	4.72	6.79
112	96	Conv 9½% 2004	111	+	8.51	7.91
112	96	Conv 9½% 2005	111	+	8.50	7.94
131	116	Treas 12½% 2003-05	131	+	9.53	8.06
101	85	Treas 8% 2002-06	100	+	7.93	7.89
125	110	Treas 11¾% 2003-07	125	+	9.40	8.00
104	89	Treas 8½% 2007	103	+	8.20	8.03
139	123	Treas 13½% 2004-08	138	+	9.72	8.07
		LONGS (over 15 years)				
108	93	Treas 9% 2008	108	+	8.33	8.06
99	85	Treas 8% 2009	99	+	8.06	8.10
107	93	Conv 9% 2011	107	+	8.37	8.18
107	93	Treas 9% 2012	107	+	8.37	8.19
76	62	Treas 5½% 2008-12	76	+	7.20	7.87
97	81	Treas 7¾% 2012-15	97	+	7.97	8.00
135	118	Exch 12% 2013-17	135	+1	8.88	8.38
105	91	Treas 8¾% 2017	104	+	8.94	8.25
		UNDATED				
47	39	Consols 4%	47	+	8.36	...
42	35	War Ln 3½%	41	+	8.35	...
63	50	Conv 3½%	62	...	5.66	...
31	24	Consols 2½%	31	+	7.98	...
30	24	Treas 2½%	29	+	8.35	...
		INDEX-LINKED				
133	122	Treas IL 2% 1994	132	-	...	1.11
197	176	Treas IL 2% 1996	196	+	1.56	2.25
109	100	Treas IL 4⅝% 1998	108	+	2.02	2.56
166	139	Treas IL 2½% 2001	166	...	2.56	2.88
163	135	Treas IL 2½% 2003	163	+	2.71	2.98
111	101	Treas IL 4⅛% 2004	111	+	2.83	3.09
169	137	Treas IL 2% 2006	169	+	2.92	3.13
153	124	Treas IL 2½% 2009	153	+1	3.12	3.30
158	129	Treas IL 2½% 2011	158	+1	3.27	3.37
130	106	Treas IL 2½% 2013	130	+1	3.26	3.41
139	112	Treas IL 2½% 2016	139	+1	3.33	3.47
133	107	Treas IL 2½% 2020	133	+1	3.39	3.52
110	88	Treas IL 2½% 2024	110	+1	3.42	3.53
111	91	Treas IL 4⅛% 2030	111	+1	3.43	3.55

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:	
SG Warburg	617p (+14p)
JA Devenish	293p (+14p)
Legal & General	481p (+16p)
Liberty Life	949p (+22p)
London & Man	355p (+11p)
Sun Alliance	361p (+10p)
LWT CP	360p (+17p)
Evans Halshaw	288p (+19p)
Reed Int	656p (+13p)
Johnson Clean	848p (+24p)
Coat Viyella	245p (+11p)
Eurotherm	556p (+13p)
Sage Group	598p (+34p)
FALLS:	
SA Breweries	895p (-53p)
Whitbread 'B'	950p (-65p)
Smithkline	437p (-10½p)
Spring Ram	63½p (-65½p)
Wellcome	887p (-15p)
Eurocamp	231p (-18p)
Carlton Comm	737p (-13p)
Liberty	643p (-12p)
WH Smith 'A'	440p (-10p)

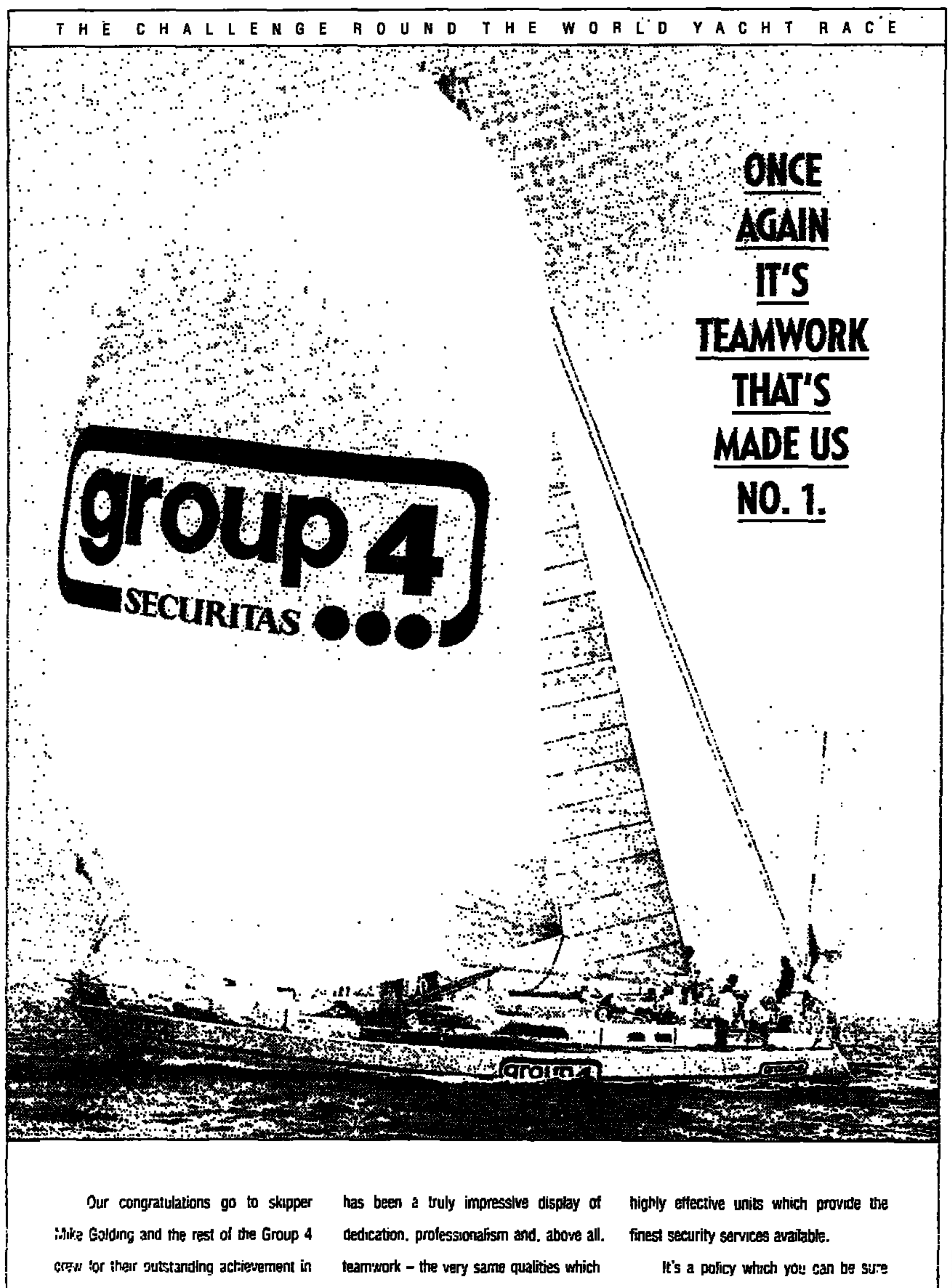
Closing Prices Page 29

RECENT ISSUES

Anglo United Warrants	½	...
For & Col US Slr Cos (100)	103	+ ½
For & Col US Slr Wts	41	...
Intl Food Machinery (51)	78	+2
Merlin Intl Green Units	95	...
Motor World (210)	278	...
Pilot Inv Trust (100)	96½	- ½
Pilot Inv Wts	27	...
Schroder Split Fund (100)	103	...
-do- Split Fund Cap (20)	21	...
-do- Split Zero Div Pf (100)	101¼	+ ½
Wts & Value Inv Tst (25)	25¾	...
Yorkshire Food (110)	130	-2

RIGHTS ISSUES		
Berkeley Group n/p (295)	56	-1
British Polythene n/p (405)	71	...
Cookson n/p (170)	12	+1½
Cupid n/p (28)	15	-2½
Gold Grnls Trott n/p (239)	40	...
Lopex n/p (17)	6	...
Menvier-Swain n/p (520)	42	...
Stonehill Hldgs A n/p (10)	¾	- ¼
Trafalgar House n/p (60)	9	-3½
Vickers n/p (95)	37	+2
WPP n/p (45)	6	-1
Yorkshire Chems n/p (330)	56	...

T H E C H A L L E N G E R O U N D T H E W O R L D Y A C H T R A C E



Our congratulations go to skipper Mike Golding and the rest of the Group 4 crew for their outstanding achievement in winning the Hobart to Cape Town leg of the British Steel Challenge Round-the-World Yacht Race

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INTERNATIONAL APPOINTMENTS

EUROCONTROL

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requires for Headquarters in Brussels (m/f):

HEAD OF DIVISION BUDGET AND CONTRACTS
(Ref: AA/063/TIM)

Tasks: reporting to the Director of Finance, the person sought will manage a Division of 20 staff responsible for: ✧ annual budget and 5-year plan; ✧ financial appraisal of *tasks and projects;* ✧ *financial forecasting;* ✧ *financial reporting;* ✧ *cash-flow* forecasts; ✧ calls for tender; ✧ bid evaluation; ✧ negotiation of contracts; ✧ insurance matters.

Requirements: ✧ university degree in economics, accountancy or financial management; ✧ well developed management skills; ✧ excellent written and oral skills; ✧ *some understanding of legal processes;* ✧ *a knowledge of both French and English.*

Experience: the successful candidate will have at least 10 years' professional experience in the following: ✧ budgeting and long-term planning; ✧ financial forecasting and appraisal techniques; ✧ preparation of financial reports to senior management in a large organisation; ✧ preparation and negotiation of contracts for the procurement of major capital and revenue items.

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Application forms and further details may be obtained from EUROCONTROL, Personnel Division, rue de la Loi 72, B-1040 Brussels, fax n° 32/2/729.39.72 for enquiries only. Enquiries must bear the appropriate reference number quoted above.

Completed application forms clearly indicating the reference number must reach the above address by 17 May 1993, at the latest.

Candidates are advised in their own interests to ensure that they meet the above deadline since closing dates are applied strictly.



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CH - 1205 Geneva

Beware of blips bearing good news about unemployment

Labour dubbed the latest jobless figures either a freak or a fiddle. One thing is certain: they were a surprise. Philip Bassett looks behind the numbers



Cautious: Gillian Shephard gave a health warning on the figures

Gillian Shephard, the employment secretary, was careful yesterday to make no claims for economic recovery on the basis of the improved unemployment figures for February, preferring to strike a note of caution about not drawing any great significance from one particular month's total.

Clearly, she is right. Even after yesterday's unexpected decrease, unemployment still encompasses more than one in ten of the workforce, is still up overall by 1.375 million, or 86 per cent, since it started to rise again in April 1990, and is still 275,800, or 10 per cent, higher than at the time of the Conservatives' general election victory last April.

But yesterday's figures were still lower after 33 successive months on the rise, and the unexpected fall discomposed everybody, from government ministers to the Opposition, from Whitehall statisticians to economic analysts in the City. All were pretty much united, however, in remaining sceptical that the fall was anything other than a single month's unusual drop, a statistical blip that would be reversed in next month's figures.

The government is foremost in thinking so. Though the unemployment figures for February were published only yesterday, Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, received them last week as he was putting the final touches to the Budget.

So he was aware of the drop, and still published the government's Red Book of financial statistics and forecasts which said of unemployment: "The rate of increase should start to slow down again as the economy recovers; though since the level of unemployment typically lags behind the cycle in activity it will be some time before it starts to fall again."

So why has it fallen now? One reason may be that the economy may be further into an upturn than has so far been thought. Many economists either missed, or undervalued the severity of, the downturn — and some economic analysts now believe that similar mistakes may be being made about the improvement in the economy.

But too many ministers have had their fingers politically burnt from spotting the recovery's green shoots too early and too often to make such judgments now in public. Privately, though, many ministers are hoping that the February unemployment figures are something other than a mere statistical blip.

That they are right to be cautious is underlined by what happened to unemployment in the last recession. In the downturn of the early 1980s, unemployment rose for 44 successive months until it fell in August 1983, when it suddenly dropped by 2,800.

Ministers were equally wary about over-interpreting that fall, and they were right. For the following seven months, unemployment carried on rising, going up 2.85 per cent, until it dropped again, in April 1984, by 8,600. Still it was right that caution prevailed, for after that it rose again — this time for ten months, until it fell in March 1985 by 4,400.

From that point on, there were a number of other falls as the upward trend slowed until unemployment reached its peak of 3.124 million in July 1986, and started a long fall of 45 months until the climb began again in April 1990.

The other unusual point about yesterday's decrease is its sheer size: last time, it was 85 months into the cycle before unemployment registered a fall of more than 22,000, in December 1986, when it went down by 24,300 — but by then, the downward trend was already firmly established.

Government statisticians genuinely do not know why unemployment went down yesterday. Indeed, they were so nervous when their computers first spat out the figures that they repeated the normal computer run used to produce them because the fall was so unexpected. But without being definite, they are offering some signs, not as explanations, but as indicators, and then only highly tentatively:

☐ Training measures: The number of people joining government training schemes in February rose. About 5,000 extra joined the Employment Training programme and 1,700 the Employment Action scheme, both aimed at helping the long-term unemployed. But the unemployment count effect of all such moves is no enough to explain the unemployment fall.

☐ Employment figures. Despite the apparently unending stream of redundancy announcements from companies, government figures published yesterday suggest that the fall in employment seems to be slowing. The 13,000 fall in manufacturing employment, for instance, was the smallest since May, and service sector employment rose in the three months to December by 51,000.

☐ Economically inactive: The number of people termed "economically inactive" — people neither employed nor unemployed, including the retired and people who stay at home — appears to be rising, according to separate government figures from its Labour Force Survey, also published yesterday. By last autumn, this group, which includes those in the workforce termed "discouraged", who have given up looking for a job, stood at 16.4 million, up from 15.8 million at the start of the recession in spring 1990.

☐ Benefits: Because the monthly unemployment figure is actually a count of people who on a particular day (for yesterday's figures it was February 11) are available for work and claiming benefit, there may be a number of people who, even though they are unemployed, may not be unemployed as defined by the criteria used for the monthly count, depending on their entitlement to benefit.

None of these points, even all of them taken together, offer any real explanation, and even the range of figures now available are not sufficient for tracking the complexities of the labour market. Government statistics do not show precisely who is actually moving out of jobs, or who is moving into them, so it is unclear, for instance, whether the unemployed outflow shows people coming off the register and into work, or coming off and sitting at home, or any combination of the two.

Labour said yesterday that the figures were either a "freak or a fiddle". After long years of being battered by opposition leaders and others following the 30-plus changes in the 1980s in the way the unemployment figures are compiled and calculated, the government statisticians who work on unemployment are highly sensitive to charges of fiddling, and few but the wildest players in the unemployment field were making such charges yesterday — although it emerged that all the 100,000 people who will be covered by the new unemployment measures announced in the Budget this week will eventually come off the overall unemployment count.

A freak is much more likely, and there may well be more freaks to come. But if the pattern of the last recession is anything to go by, such freak figures will eventually preface a downturn in unemployment. Yesterday's figures were not it, and ministers were right to talk of swallows and summers. But a few more freaks like yesterday, and the government's clear discomfort on unemployment may start to ease.

TEMPUS

Not so stout prospects

THE market's bearish reaction to Guinness' results suggests the world of the market-maker does not extend beyond the pubs and bars in the City and Marbella.

The problems caused by recession in the British and Spanish markets has dominated sentiment towards the company, distorting the complete picture of the longer-term prospects of Guinness. Perhaps this was in Tony Greener's mind when he decided to increase the dividend by 10 per cent despite a 33 per drop in profit.

The £500 million acquisition of Cruzcampo in 1991 was clearly the wrong price at the wrong time, given the scale of the slump since. Spain is prone to a boom-bust cycle and should improve again soon. Recovery in Britain, when it eventually comes, will be more tentative, but even here, people should regain their taste for premium brands. The problem for Guinness is that alcohol is a non-essential item, and sales can be hit in a recession. The group rejects the idea that it should diversify and is right to do so. Beer and spirits are businesses it manages successfully. Even in recession, it has maintained operating margins of 32 per cent on spirits and increased its margins on beer to 15 per cent. The rationale behind the stake in LVMH is more questionable, despite the cross-marketing benefits, since it is exposed to the same cycle as Guinness.

As the world economy turns, the Guinness potential for recovery is substantial. But even the group's management admits overall improvement is unlikely this year as growth in areas such as America will be offset by further decline in Japan and Europe.

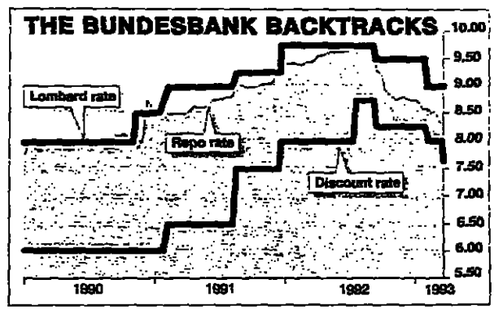
Sterling

IF THE foreign exchange market was taken by surprise by the Bundesbank's decision to cut the discount rate, it should not have been. The move was in reality little more than a formality following the easing of the repo rate two weeks ago.

The cut may be the last for some time. The pressure on the exchange-rate mechanism has eased and the economic fundamentals which rank foremost in Bundesbank thinking do not strongly support a case for further relaxation.

Sterling dealers now seem convinced that the Treasury will let the pound rise, rather than order another rate cut. In the short term, they are probably correct, particularly when last month's erratic unemployment figures suggest the economy is booming.

The unemployment numbers overshadowed another disappointing figure for M4, which at 3.3 per cent is only just above the Chancellor's wider target range, while the manufacturing sector still shows no appetite for borrowing. If next month's unemployment figure fails to confirm an image of economic vitality, the markets will resume their wait for a 5 per cent base rate.



Reed Elsevier

PRO forma figures from Reed Elsevier do nothing to dispel the belief that these are two well-managed companies whose reasons for combining were purely defensive. By combining purchasing, head office costs and technology, the merger should save up to £20 million a year, but this is hardly critical for a group that made £413 million in 1992.

Enhanced revenue sources are harder to identify. Perhaps Elsevier's stable of European technical journals will help Reed's exhibition business expand. Such a minor cross-fertilisation hardly justifies £41 million of merger costs, which were, oddly, treated as an exceptional item in the pro forma figures but an extraordinary item in Reed's results.

Strong cash flow and gearing of only 15 per cent give Reed Elsevier considerable scope for acquisitions. The group would like to buy Official Airline Guides from the Maxwell administrators but it will not pay more than $500 million at best, so there is no deal. Otherwise a selection of in-fill acquisitions will provide some growth as will any further recovery in advertising in the consumer division. The prospective p/e ratio of 19 adequately reflects these prospects.

Coats Viyella

WHILE shareholders may welcome the 4 per cent rise in Coats Viyella's final dividend to 4.25p as a sign of confidence and generosity, the decision is curious. The rise means cover remains stuck on a meagre 1.4 times.

The increase will not help cash flow, which Coats needs to reduce borrowings of more than £400 million now that its euroconvertible has been reclassified as debt.

Coats will benefit substantially from the fall in sterling, both from translation effects and the increased competitiveness of its British operations. Pre-tax profits of £145 million are possible this year. But the group must cut borrowings before it can make its next move, whether it be a bid for Dawson or something more imaginative.

United Biscuits

THE sale of Terry's Group, for 25 times its earnings, covers the cost of UB's recent acquisitions, and the new businesses earn double the profits that the chocolate manufacturer was making. Shareholders who were concerned at the length of the group's acquisition list will be relieved to see such sums. They may also welcome management's latest declaration that the group is now consolidating.

Even without acquisitions, UB should show a strong recovery in 1993. It is already tackling Keebler, which was hit by a cookie price war and was the main factor behind the group's fall in profit last year. Keebler should claw back much of its 60 per cent drop in operating profit by the end of this year. It has regained virtually all the market share lost to Nabisco and has gained ground in crackers and snacks.

In Europe, snack foods markets are growing, although, in biscuits, UB must rely on market share gain for growth. By concentrating on regions where it has market leadership, the group should achieve target operating margins of 10 per cent.

Spring Ram

THE news from Spring Ram could have been worse. The City was aware of the group's optimistic accounting methods, not least the inclusion of regional grants in profits. But £12.9 million is a lot to pay for unexpected accounting adjustments. The market will not forgive this former high flyer in a hurry.

POINTME

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Gunning for trouble

CUSTOMS officials are not known for their appreciation of sarcasm; indeed any sort of humour seems to result in terminal alert. Now even the innocent importation of toys seems to result in official apoplexy, as Simon Harris, a director of Herring Baker Harris, the chartered surveyors, found to his cost. At Schiphol airport, ready to return from a business trip to Amsterdam, Harris dutifully declared that he was carrying a toy cowboy gun, with caps — a present for his seven-year-old son. He was immediately surrounded by security men, who accused Harris of conspiring to adapt it into a real gun to hijack the plane. The toy gun was finally allowed on the BA flight, but only in the custody of the pilot. Once at Heathrow, he was told he could pick it up, but Harris didn't have time, so Niels Fischer, a German colleague, went in his place. British officials were clearly bemused that a German national was picking up a toy gun owned by a British citizen, and it took Fischer over two hours to obtain the toddler's present — but not before they had confiscated the accompanying caps. Harris's son has demanded that his daddy immediately replace the caps.

Quitting Capel

JAMES Capel has lost one more senior analyst, this time to yet another expanding American securities house. Joseph Rooney, a European equity strategist who joined Capel in 1985 to specialise in German and Dutch shares before moving to New York to develop the firm's sales efforts in the North American market, began a new job yesterday as a director and strategist with Lehman Brothers' pan-European equities research team. Rooney, 32, is part of a drive by Lehman, the corporate finance and capital markets division of the Shearson Lehman securities group, to "enhance its ability to view industries and markets in a global context".

New post

LADY Sara Morrison, daughter of the second Viscount Long and Laura, the Duchess of Marlborough, has added yet another directorship to her growing collection. A former vice-chairman of the Conservative party and ex-chairman of the National Council for Voluntary Organisations, the busy Lady Sara is now a director of the General Electric Company and a non-executive director of several other companies, including Abbey National and Carlton Television. Yesterday she joined the board of Kleinwort Charter Investment Trust, one of nine trusts run by Kleinwort Benson Investment Trusts. David Benson, chairman of the trust, says he wished to broaden his board by taking on "non-interested" directors with a wealth of experience outside the investment business. "Sara has an inquisitive and acute mind," he says.



Rich seam

THE Worthingtons' child (*Times City Diary*, Tuesday) is born. And if their son, born in 1991, was christened with names that appeared to acknowledge all of the world's best-known mining chiefs, save Derek (as in Birkin, chairman of RTZ), one of the names of this year's offspring seems to acknowledge mines. *The Times*' births column records "Victoria Venetia Claire, a sister for Georgia and Harry". As keen mining investors know, there is the great Venetia diamond mine in South Africa, owned by De Beers, and Harry is not far removed from the gold and diamond mining magnate Oppenheimer. Daddy Euan Worthington, of Warburg's mining team, assures me however, that his daughter Venetia was named after his mother, and not in deference to De Beers/Anglo American.

MELINDA WITTSTOCK

BUSINESS LETTERS

Government fails the pensioners

From Mr Kenneth Trench
Sir, The decision of the government to not continue the £2.5 million emergency funding of Maxwell pensions is lamentable. It shows an uncaring government that is failing to meet its moral responsibility.

It has effectively forced the trustees of the disaster fund to replace government funding with £6 million of charitable donations. While the move ensures current pensions continue to be paid at 100 per cent for another 12 months, it damages the hopes of a pension for those due to retire over the next few years.

Unless a pension is secure for life, it is a dubious asset.

The move is yet another short-term panacea that will do little to ease the mental turmoil of 20,000 Maxwell pension scheme members.

The Maxwell pensioners' problem was caused by inadequate legislation in the Financial Services Act that failed to insist on a compulsory compensation scheme for pensions in the case of fraud.

Maxwell was a disaster waiting to happen and is a City and political scandal. It has almost irrepairably damaged the reputation pensions used to enjoy for security and lack of risk.

A government that turns its back on its responsibility to protect pensions' investment is, in effect, telling us all we should insure our pension against fraud, as we insure our other greatest asset, our home, against fire and theft.

Yours faithfully,
KENNETH TRENCH,
Chairman, Maxwell Pensioners Action Group,
12 Briar Hill, Purley.

Policyholders left defenceless when an insurer goes into liquidation

From Mr Peter Agg
Sir, "You never know what you are insured for until you make a claim," is what my father told me more than 50 years ago, and it seems the same applies today.

A broker was paid premiums to cover public liability and of course we had no control over the choice of insurer made by the broker. A claim was made against us during the period for which cover had been paid. Some time later, we were informed the claim could not be met because the insurer, Trinity, had gone into liquidation and therefore at least 23 per cent of any successful claim would be for our own account.

What was the use of paying for cover? The claim might be for a few hundred pounds but it could have been American-style for many millions of pounds and, of course, 23 per centwould certainly bankrupt this small business.

We have tried to refer the matter to an ombudsman or someone similar in the insurance world but cannot find such an entity to arbitrate on what we believe is not only unjust so far as we are concerned but also a very dangerous flaw in the insurance world insofar as the unsuspecting public is concerned.

Does one have recourse against the broker? We are told no, so we are technically uninsured. Surely it is like taking money and not being accountable under a Sale of Goods Act? Here, it seems, everyone who got paid ducks the issue when the chips are down.

Yours faithfully,
PETER AGG,
Bridge House Hotel and Restaurant,
Reigate Hill,
Reigate,
Surrey.

Housing association rules hit the elderly

From Mr John Rogers
Sir, Rockdale is a small housing association which dates from the 1940s. In the last few years, government legislation has altered the funding arrangements for housing associations and this has resulted in increased rentals.

In addition to state pension, a married couple now need savings of at least £35,000 invested to manage. How many pensioners have savings at this level?

But the urgent question is this: what will happen to residents who have savings only modestly above the limit for housing benefit? Any suggestions?

Yours faithfully,
JOHN ROGERS
(Chairman,
Rockdale Residents' Association),
Flat 6,
The Pleasaunce,
Rockdale,
Sevenoaks, Kent.

Rent clauses shield landlords from market

From Mr John Venn
Sir, Mr Wilson-Gunn's suggestion (Business Letters, March 12) that upward-only rent review clauses are a device to preserve the free market, is quite ludicrous. These clauses are specifically designed to protect landlords from any adverse, to them, movements in the market.

Greggs have no doubt signed such leases, not through oversight, but for the same reason as we all have: no other terms are available.

That a company with an annual turnover of over £100 million is forced to agree to this type of clause is surely an indication of just how rigged the commercial property market is.

Yours faithfully,
J. E. Venn,
17 Downview Close,
Yapton,
Arundel, West Sussex.

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BASF sales decline reveals speed of German recession

BY ROSS TIEMAN IN LUDWIGSHAFEN

THE ferocity and speed with which recession is seizing German manufacturing was graphically revealed yesterday when BASF, the chemicals group, reported a 17 per cent year on year slump in sales by its German plants in the first two months of 1993.

Up to 4,000 jobs will be cut this year at BASF AG, the core business, in a renewed drive to recover competitiveness, Dr Jürgen Strube, chairman of the executive board, said. He foresaw no improvement in the German economy before 1995. BASF's evidence that Europe's former motor economy is slowing rapidly, combined with gloomy signals from the Bayer chemicals group on Wednesday, spells bad news for all of Europe.

Dr Strube gave warning of a "further deterioration since the start of the year both in private consumption and in the industrial and economic climate" in Germany.

BASF's position as Germany's largest producer of chemical products used by German industry makes it an exceptional barometer of manufacturing activity. According to Dr Strube, consumer demand is being depressed by the January 1 increase in VAT, with a knock-on effect on the electrical and automotive industries. BASF's sales to the European car industry during January were down 20 per cent, as manufacturers extended Christmas layoffs to try to match output to demand.

Falls in investment have halted growth in the construction industry in western Germany. "With many of our customers currently placing small orders at short notice, orders in hand in German business have fallen to an all-time low," Dr Strube said. Volumes were especially low in plastics and in products for agriculture. BASF's difficulties are compounded a cyclical downturn in the chemical industry worldwide has coincided with structural changes in Germany and abroad. During 1992, the tail-end of the growth surge caused by reunification of Germany helped cushion the group. Worldwide, profit before tax of the BASF group fell 41 per cent to DM 1.24 billion on sales down 4.5 per cent at DM44.5 billion. But 70 per cent of operating earnings were provided by BASF AG. Now, with the German economy in deepening recession, BASF will no longer be able to rely so heavily upon its home market.

Three of the six main product areas lost money, with some of the worst losses in the video and music tape business, which has made BASF a household name. The cash surplus, which brought the company DM130 million in interest in 1992, will become a "clearly negative" figure in 1993 as investments in eastern Germany combine with heavy environmental spending to gobble up cash.

On the evidence of BASF's figures, the German angst over the loss of competitiveness is well founded. BASF AG has the world's largest chemical plant, employing 45,000 people, at Ludwigshafen, on the Rhine. But last year alone, the proportion of "added value" achieved at BASF AG which was spent on personnel rose from 72.9 per cent to 77.2 per cent.

The group is attempting to restructure its portfolio worldwide, reinforcing its strongest businesses and selling the weak or putting them into joint ventures. But the sharpest focus will be on reducing the high costs of producing in Germany.



Signs of a lift: Tom Farmer of Kwik-Fit says sales are slowly picking up after the toughest year since 1970

Profits at Kwik-Fit deflate to £17m

BY JON ASHWORTH

FLAT tyre sales have punctured profits at Kwik-Fit Holdings, the nationwide tyres and exhaust specialist. Bargain-hunting in the recession has trimmed margins on tyre sales by up to 4 per cent and sent pre-tax profits tumbling to £17.1 million (£32.1 million) in the year to end-February.

Profits on tyres fell by up to £9 million. Costs rose by £5 million with nearly half spent on new centres. Tom Farmer, chairman, said the year had seen the toughest conditions in the industry in 22 years.

"We operate in a business that has a high fixed-cost base and the decline in sales has had a disproportionate negative effect on profitability. Sales of remould tyres and lower priced new tyres have increased while higher priced premium tyres have declined," he said.

Mr Farmer said there were signs of a gradual pick-up in sales. Motorists are waiting longer than usual to replace worn tyres but exhaust sales remained steady. Turnover slipped to £234 million (£254 million). Earnings per share were 7.06p (13.27p) and an unchanged final dividend of 2p a share leaves the total for the year at 3.35p.

The shares gained 6p to 112p before slipping back to 107p. Kwik-Fit's main competition comes from 3,500 independent suppliers. The company has 610 depots with 33 sites under development and employs 3,500 people.

Cost-cutting puts Quicks back in black

BY OUR CITY STAFF

QUICKS Group, the Manchester motor dealer, swung back into the black in 1992, with a pre-tax profit of £2.06-million against a 1991 loss of £952,000, after a restatement of the previous year's figures in line with the new FRS3 accounting rule.

Michael Moore, appointed chairman at the start of this year, said 1992 finished on a strong note, despite difficult trading, because of earlier action to cut costs. The final dividend is raised to 2.75p, making a total ahead from 3.0p to 4.5p.

Turnover fell 5 per cent to £198 million as the fall in sales of Ford products failed to be balanced by more sales in other ranges. Alec Murray, Quicks chief executive, was optimistic that new models would boost Ford's share again. The truck operations were back in profit, with indications of a better market in 1993. Trading in the first two months had shown modest signs of a pick-up. Quicks shares rose 4p to 153p.

☐ Evans Halshaw, the Midlands-based motor dealer, is holding the total dividend at 11.25p a share with a 7.65p final after suffering a downturn in profits from £3.86 million before tax to £1.7 million in 1992. Earnings fell from 11.7p a share to 5.4p.

Turnover held steady at £341.5 million, against £339.7 million but trading profits fell to £5.4 million from £7.1 million. There was a loss of £907,000 from disposed businesses and an exceptional charge of £672,000 against losses on disposals. The shares rose 14p to 283p.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES 071-782 7344

LEGAL NOTICES

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

In re
MAXWELL COMMUNICATION CORPORATION plc, et al.,
Debtors.

Chapter 11
Case No. 91 B 15741 (TLB)
Jointly Administered

NOTICE OF HEARING TO CONSIDER APPROVAL OF PROPOSED DISCLOSURE STATEMENT, PROPOSED UNSECURED CLAIMS BAR DATE PROCEDURES, AND OTHER RELIEF

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a hearing (the "Approval Hearing") shall be held before the Honorable Tina L. Brozman, United States Bankruptcy Judge, on April 28, 1993 at 10:00 a.m. to Room 621 of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York, Alexander Hamilton U.S. Custom House, One Bowling Green, New York, New York 10004 (the "Bankruptcy Court") or as soon thereafter as counsel can be heard (the "Hearing Date") to consider the application (the "Application") of Andrew Mark Hosier, Colin Graham Bird, Jonathan Guy Anthony Phillips and Alan Rae Dabbs Jamieson, joint administrators (the "Joint Administrators") for Maxwell Communication Corporation plc, debtor and debtor in possession ("MCC"), for entry of an order or orders at the Approval Hearing (the "Proposed Disclosure Statement Approval Order"):

1. Pursuant to Rules 3017 and 3003 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure (the " Bankruptcy Rules") and Sections 1125, 601, 1111, and 105 of title 11 of the United States Code, 11 U.S.C. §§ 101 et seq. (the" Bankruptcy Code"),

(a) approving MCC's proposed disclosure statement filed February 26, 1993 (as same may be amended prior to Court approval, the "Proposed Disclosure Statement") submitted in connection with its Plan of Reorganization dated and filed February 11, 1993 (as same may be amended prior to Court approval of the Proposed Disclosure Statement or as otherwise provided herein, the "Plan"), as containing "adequate information" as such term is used in Section 1125 of the Bankruptcy Code, and

(b) authorizing MCC, by the Joint Administrators, to solicit acceptances or rejections of the Plan, pursuant to the Bankruptcy Code, and the relevant Agreement, which is attached as an exhibit to the Plan (as terms may be amended under English law, the "Scheme"), pursuant to English law, from holders of Class 3A Claims (capitalized terms used but not defined herein shall have the meanings ascribed to them in Annexure 1 to the Plan) against MCC, by the transmission of a copy of the Proposed Disclosure Statement as approved by the Bankruptcy Court (the " Approved Disclosure Statement "), the English Explanatory Statement describing the Scheme, and related documents (including a cover letter from the Administrators) to each such holder of such a Class 3A Claim authorized to vote on the Plan;

2. Authorizing the timing and manner for the solicitation of acceptances or rejections of the Plan and establishing voting and other procedures in connection therewith, including claims allowance procedures for voting purposes only;

3. Approving the forms of ballot to be used by MCC in conjunction with the solicitation of votes on the Plan;

4. Approving the form of all supplemental solicitation materials marked for identification and introduced as exhibits on the record of the Approval Hearing (which shall be filed with the Bankruptcy Court and provided to parties so requesting at or prior to the Approval Hearing);

5. Scheduling a hearing to consider confirmation of the Plan, pursuant to Section 1129 of the Bankruptcy Code ("Confirmation");

6. Fixing the time and manner for filing objections to Confirmation of the Plan;

7. Establishing the Unsecured Claims Bar Date procedure proposed by the Application, which (a) permits Proofs of Claim to be filed in the United States or Notices of Claim to be lodged in England, (b) provides for a subsequent order to be entered by this Court fixing the actual calendar date that is the deadline for the filing of proofs of claim in the United States that is consistent with the Plan and falls 60 days after the Effective Date (as defined in the Annexure to the Plan) or if that day is not a business day in London and New York, the next succeeding day which is a business day in London and New York, (c) prescribes a form of notice of the United States Bar Date and the English Claims Date, and (d) approves the uniform form of Proof of Claim and Notice of Claim attached as Annexure 2 to the Plan and the Scheme; and

8. Granting such other and further relief as this Court may deem just and proper.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that all objections to the adequacy of the Proposed Disclosure Statement or such other relief requested in the Application with respect to the Proposed Disclosure Statement Approval Order (a) shall be in writing, (b) shall comply with the Bankruptcy Rules and the Local Bankruptcy Rules of this Court, (c) shall set forth the name of the objectant and the nature and amount of any claim or interest alleged by such objectant against MCC's estate or property, (d) shall state with particularity the legal and factual basis for such objection, and (e) shall be filed with the Clerk of Bankruptcy Court (with a courtesy copy provided directly to chambers), and a copy thereof delivered by overnight delivery service, upon (i) counsel to the Joint Administrators, Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy, 1 Chase Manhattan Plaza, New York, New York 10005, Attn: John G. Gallena, Esq., (ii) counsel of record to MCC, Willkie Farr & Gallagher, One Citicorp Center, 153 East 53rd Street, New York, New York 10022-4699, Attn: Donna Lieberman, Esq., (iii) counsel to the Examiner, Hebb & Gitlin, One State Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06103-3178, Attn: Eren Reechen, Esq., (iv) counsel to the UK Creditors Committee, Weichsel, Lipton, Rosen & Katz, 299 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10171, Attn: Meyer G. Koplow, Esq., and (v) the Office of United States Trustee, 80 Broad Street, New York, New York 10004, Attn: Arthur Gonzalez, Esq., such that all objections are received no later than April 16, 1993.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that this is not a solicitation of acceptance or rejection of the Plan or the Scheme (which is annexed as an Exhibit to the Plan). Acceptances of the Plan may not be solicited until the Proposed Disclosure Statement becomes the Approved Disclosure Statement pursuant to an order of the Bankruptcy Court.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that a copy of the Proposed Disclosure Statement, the Plan, the Bankruptcy Court's Order scheduling the Approval Hearing, and the Application are on file with the Clerk of the Bankruptcy Court, Alexander Hamilton U.S. Custom House, One Bowling Green, New York, New York 10004-1408, and may be examined by any interested party at any time during regular business hours. In accordance with Bankruptcy Rule 3017(a), any party in interest may obtain a copy of any such documents by submitting a written request for such documents to Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy, 1 Chase Manhattan Plaza, New York, New York 10005, Attn: MCC Disclosure Statement Clerk (fax number: (212) 530-5219).

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that MCC reserves its right to file an amendment or amendments (i) to the Plan, as provided therein or otherwise pursuant to the Bankruptcy Code and the Bankruptcy Rules, or (ii) to the Proposed Disclosure Statement, at any time prior to the Bankruptcy Court's entry of an order granting substantially all of the relief set forth in the Proposed Disclosure Statement Approval Order, or as otherwise provided pursuant to the Bankruptcy Code and the Bankruptcy Rules.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that upon the Bankruptcy Court's approval of the Proposed Disclosure Statement, holders of liquidated claims against MCC will receive copies of the Approved Disclosure Statement, the Plan (including the Scheme annexed as an exhibit thereto) and related documents.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Disclosure Statement Approval Hearing may be adjourned from time to time without prior notice to creditors or interested parties other than the announcement of the adjourned date by the Bankruptcy Court of the Hearing Date as it may be continued from time to time for the Approval Hearing.

Dated: New York, New York
March 5, 1993

BY ORDER OF THE BANKRUPTCY COURT
HONORABLE TINA L. BROZMAN
United States Bankruptcy Judge
United States Bankruptcy Court
Alexander Hamilton U.S. Custom House
One Bowling Green
New York, New York 10004-1408

MILBANK, TWEED, HADLEY & MCCLOY
1 Chase Manhattan Plaza, New York, New York 10005
Attn: John J. Jerome, Esq. John G. Gallena, Esq.
Attorneys for the Joint Administrators

CONCISE PROMOTIONS LIMITED (FORMERLY CHUSID LANDER LIMITED)
In Administrative Receivership
Registered Number: 1559986
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 48 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a general meeting of the concerned creditors of the above-named company will be held at 8 Baker Street, London W1M 1DA on 29 March 1993 at 1000 hrs for the purpose of having a report laid before the meeting and of hearing any explanation that may be given by the Administrative Receivers. Creditors whose claims are wholly secured are not required to attend or be represented.
Please note that a creditor is entitled to vote only if he has delivered to the Administrative Receivers at Stoy Hayward, 8 Baker Street, London W1M 1DA, not later than 12.00 hrs on 26 March 1993 details in writing of the debt claimed to be due from the company, and the claim has been duly admitted under the provisions of The Insolvency Rules 1986 and there has been lodged with the Administrative Receivers any proxy which the creditor intends to be used on his behalf.
R Hocking
Joint Administrative Receiver

THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
CONTEMPORARY LITHOPLATES LTD
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN Pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a MEETING of the CREDITORS of the above named Company will be held on 31 March 1993 at 4 Charterhouse Square, London EC1M 6EN at 12.00 noon for the purposes mentioned in Section 99 et seq of the said Act.
NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that Maurice Raymond Dorrington, FIPA of 4, Charterhouse Square, London EC1M 6EN is appointed to act as the qualified Insolvency Practitioner pursuant to Section 98 (2)(a) of the said Act who will furnish Creditors with such information as they may require.
DATED this 12th day of March 1993
BY ORDER OF THE BOARD
P. SILK - ATTORNEY
FOR TERENCE A. SILK

HALE HOLDINGS (CHESHIRE) LIMITED
Notice is hereby given in accordance with section 175 of the Companies Act 1985 that:
1. the above-named Company ("the Company") has approved a payment out of capital in respect of the purchase by the Company of 299 Ordinary Shares of £1 each from Christopher Paul Cartwright and certain members of his family.
2. the amount of the permissible capital payment of the shares in question is £238,465.
3. the date of the resolution for payment out of capital is 18 March 1993.
4. a statutory declaration and auditors' report required by section 173 of the Companies Act 1985, are available for inspection at the Company's registered office, and
5. any Creditor of the Company may at any time within the five weeks immediately following the date of the resolution for payment out of capital apply to the Court under section 176 of the Companies Act 1985, for an Order prohibiting the payment.
18 March 1993

SANDYNOTE LIMITED
Registered number: 2161036.
Nature of business: Property development & dealers. Trade classification: 38. Date of appointment of administrative receiver: 5 March 1993. Name of person appointing the administrative receiver: Hill Samuel Bank Limited. Joint Administrative Receivers: Alan D Kennington & John C Heath (office holder nos: 5638 and 6366) of Haines Watts Insolvency Services 51 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8PP.

UK Meat Marketing Limited
Registered Number: 1864915.
Former Name of Company: Chiltern (Meat Marketing) Ltd. Nature of Business: Meat importers. Trade Classification: 12. Date of Appointment of Administrative Receivers: 12 March 1993. Name of Person Appointing the Joint Administrative Receivers: Bank Negara Indonesia. Joint Administrative Receivers: G V Preddey & L A Manning (office holder nos: 8291 & 6477) of: Butcher Pugsley & Co., 84 Grosvenor Street, London W1X 9DF.

ROSARA, S.A.
Se convoca a los señores accionistas a la Junta General extraordinaria, a celebrar en el domicilio social, Torre Bolsa, 7º piso, 184, Méndez Pidal (Almería) el día cinco de abril de 1993, a las diez horas, en primera convocatoria, o el siguiente día 13, en el mismo lugar y hora, en segunda convocatoria, si procediera, bajo el siguiente
Orden del día
Primero - Transformación de la Sociedad en Sociedad de responsabilidad limitada, en cumplimiento de la disposición transitoria 1ª de la Ley de Sociedades Anónimas, y aprobación de los nuevos Estatutos.
Segundo - Modificación de órgano de administración y cese y nombramiento de Administradores.
Se hace constar el derecho que corresponde a todos los accionistas de examinar en el domicilio social el texto íntegro de las modificaciones estatutarias propuestas y el informe sobre las mismas y de pedir la entrega o el envío gratuito de dichos documentos.
Almería, 1 de marzo de 1993.
El Secretario.

ZODIAC FURNITURE LIMITED
Registered number: 1292661.
Trading Name: Zodiac Furniture Limited. Nature of business: Exhibition Furniture Hire. Trade classification: 20. Date of appointment of administrative receivers: 11 March 1993. Name of person appointing the administrative receivers: Barclays Bank Plc. Joint Administrative Receivers: Derrick S Wood and Paul M Davis (office holder nos: 006969 and 007808). Address: Levy Gee & Partners 7th Floor, Western House, 66 Dingwall Road, Croydon CR0 0XH.

LEGAL NOTICES

The Insurance Companies Act 1982
Lombard Continental Insurance Plc
Transfer of General Business
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Lombard Continental Insurance plc ("Lombard") applied to the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry on 17th March 1993 for his approval pursuant to Section 51 of the Insurance Companies Act 1982 to transfer to Elizabethan Insurance Company Limited (which it is intended will be renamed Lombard Continental Insurance (UK) Limited") all its rights and obligations under all policies of insurance and reinsurance written before 1st March 1993 in the United Kingdom within all Classes of insurance business set out in Part 1 of Schedule 2 of the Insurance Companies Act 1982 as are properly categorised in the records of Lombard as commercial vehicles, private cars, "Motorbikes", "Unibike", "Personal Combined", "Yacht", commercial fire, contingency, contractors all risks, accident, personal accident, employers' liability and general liability being (in each case) within Lombard's "provincial" book of business.
Copies of the Statement of Particulars of the proposed transfer are available for inspection at Lombard's offices at Lombard Continental House, 182 High Street, Tonbridge, Kent, TN9 1BY, at all times during normal business hours until 20th May 1993.
Written representations concerning the transfer may be sent to the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry at the Department of Trade and Industry, Insco Division, 10-18 Victoria Street, London, SW1H 0NN before 20th May 1993. The Secretary of State will not determine the application until after considering any representations made to him before that date.
Lombard Continental Insurance plc

2spi Limited
THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a Meeting of the Creditors of the above-named Company will be held at Hill House, Highgate Hill, London N19 5UU, on 25 March 1993 at 12.00 noon for the purposes mentioned in Section 99 to 101 of the said Act.
Creditors wishing to vote at the Meeting must lodge their proxy, together with a full statement of account at the registered office - Hill House, Highgate Hill, London N19 5UU not later than 12 noon on 25 March 1993.
For the purposes of voting, a secured creditor is required (unless he surrenders his security) to lodge at Hill House, Highgate Hill, London, N19 5UU before the meeting, a statement giving particulars of his security, the date when it was given and the value at which it is assessed.
Notice is further given that a list of the names and addresses of the Company's creditors may be inspected, free of charge, at the offices of Gerald Becker Wishart Hill House, Highgate Hill, London, N19 5UU between 10.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m. on the two business days preceding the date of the meeting stated above.
By Order of the Board
18 March 1993
M. Lewis, Director.

PUBLIC NOTICES

ANDERSON, GEORGE FREDERICK ANDERSON late of 7 Lonsdale Lodge, 99 Avenue Road, New Southgate, London N14 died at Camden, London NW1 on 6th July 1992
(Estate about £21,000)

BARBOUR, JACK BARBOUR late of 84 Glen Street, Deptford, London SE8 died there on 25 November 1992
(Estate about £126,000)

BRAND, nee McDOWALL, ELIZABETH METHVAN BRAND nee McDOWALL, WIDOW late of Stacey Harrison House, Shiplake, Oxfordshire died at Reading, Berkshire on 17th December 1991
(Estate about £8,000)

COOK, GEORGE COOK late of 16 Beacon's Crescent, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire died Hemel Hempstead on 16 September 1991
(Estate about £5,000)

COOPER, ERNEST COOPER late of 63 Paradise Fields, Bank, Northgate, Pontefract, West Yorkshire died at Pontefract on 6th September 1991
(Estate about £5,000)

ELLIS, formerly CANDLER nee THORP, KATHLEEN MARGARET ELLIS formerly CANDLER nee THORP widow late of 261 Greenwood Road, Hakenfield, Nottingham died at Nottingham on 29th November 1992
(Estate about £100,000)

HACKING, JAMES HACKING late of 17 Westway, Moreton, Wirral died at Birkenhead, Merseyside on 13 March 1993
(Estate about £41,000)

JASK nee PRIDAY, JOAN JASK nee PRIDAY, WIDOW late of Pasture Hill, 6265 Chesterfield Road, Sheffield died at Sheffield on 1 September 1992
(Estate about £7,400)

JEFFERIES nee FERRINGTON, ELIZABETH JEFFERIES nee FERRINGTON, WIDOW late of 1 Tilley Terrace, Wart, Shropshire died there on 12th May 1989
(Estate about £25,000)

JENKINS, MARGARET MARY JENKINS, SPINSTER late of "Glenmore", Cwmtillery Coch, Aberystwyth, Dyfed died there on 23rd July 1992
(Estate about £25,000)

JUMAN, JOHN JUMAN late of Northgate Hospital, Queens Road, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk, died there on 18 July 1992
(Estate about £110,000)

KIDD, JOHN CLIFTON KIDD late of 9 Ridgeway Gardens, Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex died at Westcliff-on-Sea on 6th July 1992
(Estate about £180,000)

LEWIS, WEATHERHEAD LEWIS otherwise JAMES WETHERHEAD LEWIS late of 24 Dodds Street, Darlington, Co. Durham died at Darlington on 19th February 1992
(Estate about £14,000)

O'DRISCOLL, TIMOTHY ALOYSIOUS O'DRISCOLL late of 20 Stanley Court, Monastery Drive, Middleton-on-Sea, Sussex died at Oxted, Surrey on 1st August 1992
(Estate about £7,000)

PUBLIC NOTICES

OLISSA otherwise MADAUWU, ANTHONY OLISSA otherwise OLISSA MADAUWU late of 44a Salters Hill, Hackney, London E5 died at Hospenton, London E9 on 28th October 1991
(Estate about £6,100)

PEOPLES, ELLEN WINIFRED PEOPLES, SPINSTER late of 26 St Mary's Crescent, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire died at Warwick on 27 December 1991
(Estate about £152,000)

PINFOLD nee MITCHELL, GRACE DORA PINFOLD otherwise DORA PINFOLD nee MITCHELL, WIDOW late of 3 Tolland House, Wandsworth Estate, Allbarding Lane, Wandsworth, London SW18 died at Tooting, London SW17 on 14th December 1990
(Estate about £8,000)

POSTANS, formerly BOOTH nee HULME, MARJORIE SARAH POSTANS otherwise MARJORIE POSTANS formerly BOOTH nee HULME, WIDOW late of 34 Aldrige Road, Slough, Berkshire died at Slough on 7th July 1991
(Estate about £9,000)

REILLY, PATRICK REILLY late of 15 Meadow House, Upper Spon Street, Coventry died at Coventry on 6th May 1992
(Estate about £2,500)

RYDELL, ZIGMUND RYDELL otherwise ZYGMUNT RYDELL otherwise SIGMUND RYDELL late of 9 Salisbury Road, Chelmsthorpe, Essex died at Colchester, Essex on 16th November 1988
(Estate about £5,000)

SAMPSON nee CRANLEY, ADA SAMPSON nee CRANLEY, WIDOW late of 1 Old Bexley Lane, Bexley, Kent died at Sidcup, Kent on 15th June 1991
(Estate about £7,000)

SNAPE, PERCY SNAPE late of Rose Hill Cottage, Mill Lane, Adlington, Cheshire died at Stockport, Cheshire on 16th May 1992
(Estate about £18,000)

STEPHENS formerly WOOD nee ALDRED, MAY WRIGHT STEPHENS otherwise MAY STEPHENS formerly WOOD nee ALDRED, WIDOW late of 44 Gosport Road, Stubbington, Fareham, Hampshire died at Portsmouth, Hampshire on 29th August 1992
(Estate about £71,000)

STURGES formerly PENHALLURICK, JOHN MARTIN CLIVE STURGES formerly ARTHUR RALPH CLAUD PENHALLURICK late of 94 Devonshire Road, Smethwick, Warley, West Midlands died at West Bromwich, West Midlands on 18th October 1992
(Estate about £44,000)

VENUS, HERBERT MARSHALL VENUS late of 29 Maesmorydd, Aberdovey, Gwynedd died at Aberdovey on or about 21st February 1987
(Estate about £10,000)

WARNER, MICHAEL JOHN WARNER late of 48 Jean Road, Wandsworth, London SW18 died there on 20th November 1991
(Estate about £10,000)

WOOD nee MASON, MARY LILIAN WOOD otherwise MARY LILIAN WOOD otherwise MARY WOOD, WIDOW late of 17 Devonshire Green, Farnham Royal, Slough, Buckinghamshire died there on 4th April 1992
(Estate about £8,000)

The kin of the above-named are requested to apply to the Treasury Solicitor (L.V.), Queen Anne's Chambers, 28 Broadway, London SW1H 9JS, stating which the Treasury Solicitor may take steps to administer the estate.

SHEPHERD nee BONE, CONSTANCE FRANCES SHEPHERD nee BONE late of 70 Union Road, Camberwell, London SE5 and Southwark, London SE1 on 6th March 1989
(Estate about £6,200)

The husband and kin of the above-named are requested to apply to the Treasury Solicitor (L.V.), Queen Anne's Chambers, 28 Broadway, London SW1H 9JS, stating which the Treasury Solicitor may take steps to administer the estate.

COOPER, MURIEL IRENE COOPER, Spinster, late of 147 Barry Road, East Dulwich, SE22, died there on the 26th October 1984 (residuary estate about £97,000).
The kin of the above named are requested to apply to Messrs Cattermoles, Solicitors of The White House, 1 Nook Lane, Wellins, Kent, DA16 2DJ.

NOTICE UNDER SECTION 3 OF THE REVERTER OF SITES ACT 1987
The former Nutfield County Primary School in the County of Oxfordshire
WHEREAS:
(1) The Trustees of the former Nutfield County Primary School (formerly held the land specified in the schedule hereto under a Conveyance dated 18 April 1879 and made between William Hayward and Ashworth and Robert Aldworth of the first part and The School Board of the Parish of Nutfield in the County of Oxford and their successors of the other part. The Conveyance was made for the purposes of the School Sites Acts 1841 to 1851 and the Elementary Education Acts 1870, 1873 and 1876 upon trust for the purposes of a public elementary school and for no other purpose whatever. This is the land passed to the Oxfordshire County Council pursuant to the terms of the Education Act 1902. On ceasing to be used for those purposes there were provisions for reverter of the land.
(2) The land ceased to be used for the said purposes and by virtue of Section 1 of the Reverter of Sites Act 1987 became subject to a trust to sell the land and to stand possessed of the net proceeds of sale and of the net rents and profits until sale upon trust for the persons who but for that Act would from time to time be entitled to the ownership of the land by virtue of its reverter.
NOW THE TRUSTEES GIVE NOTICE AS FOLLOWS:
1. The Trustees propose to apply to the Charity Commissioners for England and Wales under Section 2 of the Reverter of Sites Act 1987 for an Order establishing a scheme with respect to the property subject to the said trust which will:
(a) extinguish the rights of beneficiaries under the trust; and
(b) require the Trustees to hold the said property on trust for such charitable purposes as may be specified in the Order.
2. Any beneficiary under the trust who wishes to oppose the extinguishment of his rights should notify his claim in writing to the Trustees c/o Solicitor to the Council, Oxfordshire County Council, County Hall, New Road, Oxford, OX1 1ND within three months of today.
SCHEDULE
An area of 0.11 hectares (0.27 acres) forming part of the grounds of the former Nutfield County Primary School, Nutfield, Oxfordshire.
J Harwood
Chief Executive
Oxfordshire County Council
19 March 1993

When moving money for business who do Britain's top retailers use?

Every year many of the biggest retailers in the UK rely on one business bank in particular to move £55 billion of their money. Major supermarkets, wholesalers and High Street retailers trust the experience and expertise of Girobank.

Girobank has the specialist skills required to move money efficiently and quickly, both at home and around the markets of the world.

With access to a network of nearly 20,000 post offices, covering the UK – including Scotland and Northern Ireland, Girobank has almost double the number of branches of all the other banks put together.

Let Girobank provide a convenient and cost-effective way of moving money for your business.

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TT/19/03

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Shares suffer small losses

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began March 15. Dealings end March 26. §Contango day March 29. Settlement day April 5. §Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days. Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

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4	Ward Hldgs	Building,Rds	
5	HTV Group	Leisure	
6	Allied Colloids	Chems,Plas	
7	Hall Eng	Industrial	
8	Druck	Electrical	
9	Barclays	Banks,Disc	
10	Nat Asst Bk	Banks,Disc	
11	Hutch Whamp	Business Serv	
12	Hewitt (J)	Industrial	
13	Lloyds Abbey	Insurance	
14	Cantes	Banks,Disc	
15	Eng China Cl	Industrial	
16	Anglia TV	Leisure	
17	Warner	Property	
18	First Leisure	Leisure	
19	Woodside	Oils, Gas	
20	Hays	Business Serv	
21	Gr Portland	Property	
22	Johnson Matth	Industrial	
23	JIB Group	Insurance	
24	Nurdin Peark	Foods	
25	Aegis Gp	Paper,Print	
26	Western Areas	Mining	
27	Richardson West	Industrial	
28	Swire Pacific 'A'	Industrial	
29	Kleinwort Ben	Banks,Disc	
30	Govett	Finance, Land	
31	Frogmore	Property	
32	Wimpey G	Building,Rds	
33	Bradford	Property	
34	Warnford	Property	
35	Northumbrian	Water	
36	Calor Gp	Oils, Gas	
37	Appleyard	Mowrs,Air	
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-do- Inc 92.11 97.28† -0.02 6.62
Nth America 269.30 286.50 -3.10 ...
Far East 263.90 280.80 +2.60 0.33
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General Inc 421.20 448.10† +0.70 2.57
-do- Acc 462.40 492.00† +0.80 2.57
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Brit Fndmtls Inc 65.21 69.38† -0.44 5.26
Brit Fndmtls Acc 84.05 89.42† +0.55 5.26
Global Opps 70.39 74.89 -0.26 ...

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Gilt Fxd Inc 58.14 60.12† +0.02 8.64
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Exempt 81.94 84.19 -1.06 3.80
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Global Growth 108.30 115.60 -0.30 ...
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-do- Acc 206.50 221.10† +0.20 3.40
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UK Smaller Cos 78.14 83.57 -0.02 2.00
Select Managers 62.96 67.46 -0.05 2.10

BRITANNIA LIFE UNIT MANAGERS LTD
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041 332 3132
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-do- Inc 94.81 101.40 -0.11 2.39
Global Bond 29.52 31.32 -0.14 5.78
High Yield Acc 51.99 55.60 +0.21 4.52
-do- Inc 38.11 40.76 +0.15 4.52
Smlr Cos Acc 84.62 90.50 ... 1.81
-do- Inc 78.26 83.70 ... 1.81
Amer Gth Acc 59.40 63.53 -0.36 ...
-do- Inc 58.29 62.34† -0.36 ...
Euro Gth Acc 94.37 100.93 -0.73 1.78
-do- Inc 93.08 99.55† -0.72 1.78
Mngd P folio 34.28 36.66† -0.10 1.54
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Intl Spec Opps 86.03 92.01 -0.38 1.09

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0444 458144
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Income 126.70 135.60 +0.40 4.28
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-do- Acc 174.20 185.50 +0.10 ...
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European Inc 22.79 24.52 -0.08 0.46
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-do- Acc 479.70 510.40 +1.30 4.09
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-do- Acc 75.64 78.39 -0.13 2.04
Smaller Cos 120.20 127.90 -0.20 2.00
-do- Acc 144.40 153.70 -0.20 2.00
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061 837 5060
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UK Growth 144.80 154.10† -0.30 2.35
UK Income 124.00 132.00 -0.40 4.46

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SE Asia 80.02 85.58† -1.90 1.09
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Income 53.14 56.83 -0.36 4.28
Far East 43.83 46.88 +0.26 0.17
North American 83.79 89.29 -2.38 0.01
Global 81.95 87.65† -0.51 0.69
European 68.39 73.15† +0.08 1.28
Japan 96.21 102.70 +1.10 0.01
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UK Cap Gwth 79.36 83.87† +1.05 2.02

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-do- Acc 68.08 72.06 -0.10 1.08
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-do- Acc 282.50 300.60 +1.20 0.99
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-do- Acc 10812.0 11181.0 +2.00 2.68
Special Sits 85.98 91.47 +0.25 2.50
-do- Acc 100.52 107.04 +0.30 2.50
Exempt Fund
High Yield 1201.0 1239.0 +6.00 4.47
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Eurotrack 100 127.70 135.70† -1.20 1.76
Euro Gth 79.16 84.27 -0.63 1.47
Far East Growth 83.34 88.94 +0.14 0.16
Global Bond 23.45 24.70 -0.21 8.81
Hong Kong 70.06 74.77† +0.18 0.64
Income 507.20 541.20 +2.40 4.63
Intl Growth 72.42 77.28 -0.74 1.05
Japan Growth 227.50 242.70 +4.30 ...
Japan Smllr Cos 28.10 29.98† +0.20 ...
Japan Index 67.49 72.02† +1.34 0.28
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Pacific P folio 93.95 101.03 +0.42 2.43
Cazenove P folio 69.38 74.21 -0.13 3.00
UK Income Gth 62.80 67.22 -0.02 5.00

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Fixed Int 155.70 156.45 ... 9.27
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Income 596.47 600.35 ... 4.98
-do- Acc 2297.9 2316.6 ... ...
Deposit 5.90 ... 6.03 ...
Fxd Int Inc 127.15 127.21 ... 9.12
-do- Acc 166.55 166.88 ... ...

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Friars Hse Inc 178.88 192.34 ... 6.44
Friars Hse Cap 252.09 271.06 ... 2.87

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Dealing: 081 686 9818
American Gth 110.55 117.61 -2.01 ...
European Gth 93.86 99.85 -0.31 1.18
Far East Gth 97.22 103.43 -0.44 0.48
Japan Gth Acc 35.87 38.16 +0.51 ...
Managed 61.38 65.27 -0.09 2.97
-do- Acc 74.10 78.83 +0.11 2.97
Mthly Inc Plus 47.22 50.23 -0.03 8.61
Smaller Cos 34.39 36.58† +0.11 2.12
-do- Acc 38.74 41.21 +0.12 2.12
UK General 68.09 72.44 ... 2.72
-do- Acc 81.63 86.84 ... 2.72
Wwide Bd 63.94 68.02† -0.32 6.43
-do- Acc 82.24 87.49 -0.42 6.43
Wwide Sp Sits 54.60 58.40 -0.03 0.22
-do- Acc 56.86 60.83 -0.03 0.22
Quilter General 120.04 127.70† +0.32 2.71
-do- Acc 133.38 141.89 +0.35 2.71
Quilter Income 92.34 98.23† +0.40 4.57
-do- Acc 113.81 121.07 +0.50 4.57
Quilter Intl 126.84 134.94 -0.57 0.64
-do- Acc 128.59 136.80 -0.57 0.64
Quilter UK Spec 69.04 73.45 -0.28 2.48
-do- Acc 91.33 97.16 -0.37 2.48
CU Prestige Fund Management
Fin Property 103.02 109.60 +1.63 1.67
Fixed Conv 40.42 43.00† -0.02 8.55
-do- Acc 105.62 112.36 -0.03 8.55
Equity Inc 143.94 153.13† +0.66 4.04
-do- Acc 462.07 491.56 +2.11 4.04
High Yield 116.64 124.09† +0.46 5.22
-do- Acc 441.04 469.19 +1.73 5.22
Preference 47.63 50.67 -0.08 7.80
-do- Acc 241.27 256.67 -0.42 7.80
PPT Europe 148.58 158.06 -0.52 0.59
PPT Global Bnd 83.75 88.97 -0.39 4.83
PPT Gold Com 50.29 53.50 -0.34 ...
PPT Thai 57.79 61.48 +0.07 ...
PPT Hong Kong 95.04 101.11 +3.91 0.42
PPT Japan 100.09 106.48 +1.71 ...
PPT N Amer 154.04 163.87 -2.66 ...
PPT S'pore Mly 98.93 105.24 -0.52 ...
PPT UK 115.05 122.39 +0.04 1.46
PPT Cash 91.30 91.30 +0.01 5.64

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0242 577 555
Oriental Op Acc 76.22 81.09 +0.64 .98
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UK Balncd Inc 124.70 132.70 -0.20 2.53
-do- Acc 145.70 155.00 -0.20 2.53
UK Growth Acc 206.10 219.30 ... 3.20
UK High Inc 133.70 142.20 +0.40 6.68
-do- Acc 157.80 167.90 +0.40 6.68
N America Acc 116.20 123.60 -0.90 .31
European Acc 152.20 161.90 -0.70 .43
UK Fxd Int Inc 60.52 64.22 -0.08 8.80
-do- Acc 97.68 103.70 -0.10 8.80
Intl Sp Sits Acc 47.18 50.19 +0.54 .22
Environmntl Opp 71.38 75.94 -0.12 1.46

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Growth Inc 211.70 224.90† -0.60 4.00
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Japan Exempt 96.66 101.30 +3.21 0.49
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Far Eastern 217.99 229.46 -0.87 1.59
Intl Growth 90.14 94.88† -1.07 1.55
European 63.00 66.32 -0.65 2.26
Smaller Cos 70.63 74.35 -0.02 2.34

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European Tst 111.90 119.00 -0.70 ...

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Far Eastern 122.80 131.30 +1.20 ...
Opens Income 90.40 96.98 +0.06 2.71
UK Growth 91.44 97.80 -0.38 1.33
UK Income 102.90 110.10 +1.10 3.78
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Cond Smllr Cos 46.38 49.87 -0.25 1.20
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Convertible 110.40 117.40 ... 6.47
-do- Acc 204.40 217.40 ... 6.47
European 97.02 103.60 -0.30 1.18
-do- Acc 100.30 107.00 -0.30 1.18
Extra Income 287.80 305.90 +1.50 4.37
-do- Acc 402.60 428.20 +2.00 4.37
Financial 107.70 115.80 ... 0.82
-do- Acc 112.10 120.50 ... 0.82
Health Fund Inc 112.40 120.00 -2.30 ...
-do- Acc 112.40 120.00 -2.30 ...
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-do- Acc 246.70 262.40 +1.20 4.03
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-do- Acc 339.70 363.90 -2.60 ...
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-do- Acc 152.50 163.20 +2.40 ...
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-do- Acc 341.90 365.60 -1.00 0.86
Gilt Gth Tst 62.67 64.62 -0.09 7.05
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Administration: 0722 411622
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-do- Acc 701.22 745.98 -1.65 3.04
Euro Gth Dist 104.85 111.54† +0.24 0.86
-do- Acc 107.98 114.87† +0.26 0.86
Fixed Int Dist 130.57 138.11† +0.09 6.43
-do- Acc 219.31 231.98† +0.16 6.43
Intl Gth Dist 74.94 79.72 +0.21 0.77
-do- Acc 77.51 82.46 +0.21 0.77
Nth Amer Dist 173.14 183.43 -1.29 0.76
-do- Acc 187.77 198.93 -1.39 0.76
Pac Basin Dist 228.32 242.89 +3.56 0.29
-do- Acc 231.02 246.72 +3.61 0.29
Stewardship Dist 298.55 317.61 +0.44 1.97
-do- Acc 353.21 375.76 +0.53 1.97
Stwd Inc Dist 61.81 65.76† +0.10 4.66
-do- Acc 75.74 80.57† +0.11 4.66
N Am Stwd Dist 102.55 109.10 -0.05 ...
-do- Acc 108.49 115.41 -0.05 ...

GT UNIT MANAGERS
8th Floor, 8 Devonshire Sq, London EC2M 4YJ. 071 220 4567. Dealing: 071 626 9431
Am Sp Sits 141.10 150.90 -2.40 ...
European 392.80 416.90† -1.50 1.01
Far East General 199.70 213.60 +0.50 0.34
Germany 100.30 106.10 ... 0.43
Global Assets In 66.09 70.66 -0.08 2.29
Global Assets Ac 69.25 74.04 -0.05 2.26
Income Inc 110.40 118.10† +1.30 7.45
International 251.80 269.30† -0.20 1.03
Intl Income 77.25 81.91 -0.11 4.87
Japan General 328.30 348.40 +2.40 ...
Smllr Cos Div 45.47 48.63 +0.21 6.24
UK Capital Inc 154.90 165.30† +1.10 4.04
-do- Acc 264.30 282.70 +1.80 3.97
Uk Spec Sits 70.32 75.21 +0.38 1.69
US General 114.50 122.10 -1.40 0.11
W wide Spec Sits 112.60 120.50 +0.40 0.11

GARTMORE FUND MANAGERS
Gartmore House, 16/18 Monument Street, London EC3R 8AJ. 071 623 1212.
Dealing: 0277 264421. Services: 0800 289 336
UK Growth Funds
British Growth 43.03 46.02† +0.25 1.36
Cash Trust* 127.74 127.74† +0.01 5.60
Pract Inv Inc 100.99 108.30† +0.17 4.12
-do- Acc 216.80 232.49† +0.37 4.12
UK Smaller Cos 96.59 103.58 ... 1.56
Income Funds
Preference Share 24.93 26.66 -0.02 8.29
High Inc 30.75 32.89† -0.22 5.50
UK Equity Inc 126.79 135.60† +0.53 4.04
Global Bond 28.81 30.88† -0.10 5.57
International Funds
Gold Intl 67.34 72.11 +1.04 1.62
Frontier Markets 40.33 43.25 +0.10 0.23
Global Inc Gth 120.57 128.62 -0.47 2.39
UK Intl 107.98 115.49 -0.19 0.68
Overseas Funds
American 132.06 140.77 -1.60 0.57
European 80.56 85.43† -0.32 0.80
Euro Sel Opps 92.86 98.97† -0.39 1.29
American Emerg 80.04 85.83 -1.32 ...
Hong Kong 101.98 109.36† +2.54 2.19
Japan 183.53 195.30 +3.57 ...
Pacific Growth 140.10 150.24 -0.76 0.51

GOVETT (JOHN) UNIT MANAGEMENT
Shackleton House, 4 Battle Bridge Lane, London SE1 2HR. 071 378 7979.
Dealing: 071 588 8526
Intl Growth 121.80 130.27 +0.43 0.47
American Gth 119.78 128.11 -0.69 ...
European Gth 68.36 73.12 -0.03 0.47
German Horizn 48.11 51.31 -0.17 0.92
Japan Gth 68.20 72.94 +1.45 ...
Pacific Inc 127.71 136.59 +1.20 3.00
Pacific Strategy 105.16 112.48 +0.88 ...
UK Prog Inc 74.60 78.65 -0.25 4.86
Gt British Cos 48.10 50.73 -0.10 2.42
UK Small Cos 43.64 46.67 -0.03 2.13

GRE UNIT MANAGERS
36 Harbour Exchange Sq, London E14 9GE.
071 538 9668
Cash 130.30 130.30 ... 6.30
Gilt Fixed 119.70 126.90† ... 6.63
Growth Equity 281.20 300.40 -1.20 2.33
Guardhill 418.40 447.00† -1.00 2.60

Income Trust 106.40 113.60 -0.30 3.78
International 153.70 164.20 +0.40 0.38
Japan Trust 110.20 117.70 +3.00 ...
Managed ... ...
Nth American 264.20 282.20 -1.10 0.44
Pacific 348.10 371.80 +1.70 ...
Prop Shares ... ...
Small Cos ... ...
European 337.70 360.70 -2.60 0.59

HALIFAX STANDARD TRUST MANAGEMENT LTD
PO Box 600, Edinburgh EH15 1EW.
0800 838968
Global Adv Inc 34.57 36.65† -0.20 1.76
-do- Acc 36.19 38.37 -0.20 1.76
Inc Adv Inc 29.25 31.01† -0.10 4.15
-do- Acc 30.40 32.23 -0.10 4.15

HAMBROS UNIT TRUST MANAGERS
5 Rayleigh Rd, Hutton, Brentwood, Essex.
Enquiries: 0277 227300.
Dealing: 0277 690390
Canadian 71.12 76.19 -0.17 0.72
Equity Income 111.70 118.80† +0.60 3.60
European 131.80 139.50 -0.40 1.52
Intl Smaller 72.84 77.49 -0.01 ...
Japanese 122.50 130.40 +3.50 ...
North American 104.10 110.50 -0.40 0.08
Scandinavian 103.90 109.90 -0.50 0.12
Smaller Cos 29.64 31.53 +0.08 2.32

HENDERSON
PO Box 2003, Brentwood, Essex CM13 1XT.
Enquiries: 0277 227300.
Dealing: 0277 234772
Amer Smaller 91.07 97.36 -1.02 ...
Asian Enterprise 118.53 128.12 +1.34 0.75
Australian 137.41 146.88† +0.77 1.41
European 362.38 383.37 +0.67 1.19
European Inc 68.60 72.53† +0.15 3.23
Euro Smaller Co 121.96 130.11 -0.04 0.76
Extra Income 256.36 272.91† +1.26 5.31
Family of Funds 68.21 72.84 +0.17 1.46
Fixed Interest 55.36 59.20† +0.03 9.70
Global Resour 85.83 92.13 -0.14 1.23
High Inc 278.40 297.80 +0.59 4.80
Income Gth 234.17 249.38 +1.27 3.93
-do- Acc 599.29 627.58 +3.20 3.93
International 221.92 236.18 -0.07 1.01
Japan Spc Sit 201.00 213.73 +3.86 0.07
Japan 174.29 185.27 +4.39 ...
N Amer 230.12 244.60 -3.52 0.21
Pacific Smllr Cos 165.04 178.01 +0.69 0.52
Pref Gilt 46.68 50.73 +0.02 8.68
Smaller Cos Div 155.88 169.90 +0.24 4.35
Special Sits 252.33 269.98† -0.87 1.62
-do- Acc 387.72 414.85† -1.34 1.62
Best of British 55.70 59.67 +0.19 2.64
Spirit of the East 54.33 58.14 +0.80 0.88

HILL SAMUEL UT MANAGERS
NLA Tower Addiscombe Road, Croydon.
081 686 4355
British 87.15 93.20 +0.22 2.33
Capital 153.60 164.20 +0.20 1.97
Dollar 312.70 334.40 -3.40 0.16
European 189.70 202.80 -0.10 0.55
Far East 227.20 242.90 -1.40 0.62
Financial 648.80 693.90† +9.70 2.57
Gilt Fxd Int Inc 26.18 27.20 ... 7.88
High Yield 99.11 106.00 +0.90 4.92
Income 132.40 141.60 +0.90 3.50
Intl 208.80 223.30 -0.40 0.36
Japan Tech 58.49 62.55 +0.80 ...
Nat Resources 56.10 60.00 -0.10 0.79
Security 291.00 311.20† +1.10 2.12
Smaller Cos 103.90 111.10 -0.50 1.64
Special Sits 133.30 142.50† +0.80 2.08
US Smaller Cos 64.96 69.47 -1.31 ...

IBI FUND MANAGERS
36 Queen St, London, EC4R 1BN.
071 489 8673
Brit O seas 242.80 255.60 -4.60 1.41
Capital Gwth 102.30 107.70 ... 2.46
Inv Trusts 126.20 132.80 ... 0.71

INVESCO MIM UT MANAGERS
11 Devonshire Square, London EC2M 4YR.
071 626 3434. Dealing: 0800 010733
UK Specialist Trusts
Smaller Cos 22.98 25.19† +0.08 1.66
Special Features 26.43 28.08† +0.01 1.64
-do- Acc 31.25 33.20† +0.01 1.62
General Funds
UK Growth 52.63 56.43 +0.06 2.31
Assets Earnings 69.54 73.68 +0.09 2.01
do Acc 81.72 86.82 +0.11 2.02
Managed Invest 82.80 88.48† +0.30 1.35
Rupert Children 74.82 79.81 -0.04 1.75
High Income Funds
Cashbox 50.23 50.23† ... 4.71
Extra Inc 78.11 83.74 -0.17 5.51
Gilt 28.01 29.49 +0.01 6.98
Income Gth 38.19 40.81 +0.28 3.63
MIMstar 77.17 79.11 -0.07 8.51
Preference 17.74 19.43† -0.06 6.80
UK Income 301.40 322.20† -2.10 3.40
Sector Specialist Funds
Fincl Sec 54.87 58.29 +0.34 1.46
Property Shares 57.82 61.43† +0.59 2.25
Exempt Funds
Exempt 139.90 147.10 +1.00 4.38
European Acc 109.50 116.10 -0.30 2.06
European Dist 104.20 110.50 -0.30 2.06
Overseas Growth Funds
American Gth 49.75 52.91† -0.64 1.05
European Perf 105.70 112.10 -0.50 1.34
-do- Acc 107.70 114.20 -0.50 1.34
Euro Small Cos 20.49 21.82 -0.14 0.81
French Growth 67.50 71.86† -0.30 0.59
-do- Acc 71.94 76.59† -0.32 0.59
Hong K/China 63.43 68.28 +0.94 1.37
Intl Growth 49.00 52.06 -0.01 0.85
-do- Acc 49.00 52.06 -0.01 0.85
Japan Perf 28.93 30.72 +0.87 ...
Accum Units 28.93 30.72 +0.87 ...
Japan Smllr Cos 30.67 32.58 +0.48 ...
Singapore Asean 69.45 75.68 -0.55 0.59
-do- Acc 69.88 76.15 -0.55 0.59
South East Asia 207.10 222.30† +0.50 0.99
US Smllr Cos 111.90 118.80 -1.30 ...
-do- Acc 113.00 120.00 -1.40 ...
Overseas Income Funds
Global Inc 82.58 87.98 +0.01 2.76
Intl Bond 57.45 58.30† +0.15 6.69

KLEINWORT BENSON UNIT TRUST LTD
10 Fenchurch Street, London EC3.
071 956 6600. Dealing: 071 956 7354
Income Trusts
Cash Acc 68.88 69.22† +0.01 5.46
Extra Income 51.60 54.89† +0.09 7.01
Gilt Yield 119.20 125.70† +0.10 7.96
Global Income 191.80 204.00† -3.36 4.19
High Yield 132.40 140.80 +0.70 6.23
Smllr Cos Div 45.68 48.60† +0.02 4.92
Capital Growth Trusts
Amer Smllr Cos 91.89 97.76 -1.73 ...
North American 77.31 82.24 -1.41 0.43
European 127.20 135.30 -1.50 0.93
Euro Special 75.98 80.83 -0.66 1.03
General 261.20 277.90 -0.40 3.43
Japan 341.30 363.10 +2.60 ...
Japanese Special 182.80 194.50† -0.40 ...
Master Acc 212.30 225.10 -1.10 1.46
Pacific 244.50 260.10 -1.10 0.51
Smaller Cos 94.31 100.30 +0.02 2.30
UK Equity Gth 34.30 36.49† +0.08 2.71

LAS UNIT TRUST MANAGERS
113 Dundas St, Edinburgh EH3 5EB.
031 550 5151
European 72.47 77.10 -0.48 0.51
Extra Income 23.69 25.20† -0.09 3.49

Far East 24.22 25.77† +0.41 0.96
Income Gwth 71.44 76.00† -0.29 3.10
Intl Growth 50.11 53.31† +0.33 0.89
Japan 55.05 58.56 +1.18 ...
Maximum Dist* 100.70 102.70 ... 7.36
N Amer Equity 40.99 43.61 -0.13 0.48
UK Equity 85.63 91.10 -0.21 3.20

LAURENCE KEEN UNIT TRUST MANAGEMENT
1 White Hart Yard, London SE1. 071 407 5966
Income Gth Inc 52.82 56.19 ... 4.73

LEGAL & GENERAL UT MANAGERS
5 Rayleigh Road, Hutton, Brentwood Essex.
Enq: 0277 227300. Dealing: 0277 690395
Equity Dist 420.20 447.00† +1.10 2.89
Equity Acc 798.70 849.70 +2.20 2.89
Equity Income 90.49 96.27 +0.60 5.13
European 94.42 100.40† -0.10 1.30
Far Eastern 166.20 177.20 +2.60 0.33
Fixed Interest 51.09 54.39† -0.04 7.40
Gilt 92.43 98.02 +0.24 7.00
Global Growth 63.81 67.88 +0.10 0.77
Intl Bond 57.00 60.64† -0.15 5.00
Japanese 60.45 64.31 +1.00 ...
Overseas Equity 92.42 98.32 -0.05 0.80
Pacific Gth 79.59 84.67 +0.77 1.32

LLOYDS BANK UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD
Mountbatten Hse, Chatham, Kent ME4 4JF.
0634 834315
Balanced 314.40 334.50 -0.60 2.95
-do- Acc 680.80 724.30 -1.50 2.95
Cond Euro Gth 50.53 53.19 -0.18 1.38
-do- Acc 53.47 56.25 -0.20 1.38
Extra Inc 238.60 253.60 +0.40 4.03
-do- Acc 580.30 617.40 +1.00 4.03
German Gth 103.60 109.10 -0.60 0.37
-do- Acc 108.80 114.40 -0.60 0.37
Growth Port 488.90 511.70 -0.10 2.18
-do- Acc 480.90 511.20 -0.10 2.18
Income 446.60 475.20 +0.80 3.78
-do- Acc 1131.0 1204.0 +2.00 3.78
Income Port 486.60 516.70 +0.40 4.87
-do- Acc 486.60 516.70 +0.40 4.87
Japan Growth 82.92 88.22 +1.14 0.01
-do- Acc 83.21 88.53 +1.14 0.01
Master Trust 51.45 54.74 -0.01 1.61
-do- Acc 55.95 59.53 -0.02 1.61
N American Gen 190.20 202.40 -2.00 0.01
-do- Acc 219.70 233.80 -2.30 0.01
NAm Sm Co Rec 139.40 148.30 -1.60 0.01
-do- Acc 142.20 151.30 -1.70 0.01
Pacific Basin 193.90 206.30 -1.00 0.59
-do- Acc 204.90 218.00 -1.10 0.59
Small Cos Rec 302.70 318.70 +10.70 2.40
-do- Acc 390.60 411.20 +13.90 2.40
UK Growth 77.14 82.07 -0.07 2.42
-do- Acc 89.94 95.69 -0.08 2.42
Worldwide Gth 272.20 289.60 -0.10 0.28
-do- Acc 401.10 426.80 -0.20 0.28

LONDON & MANCHESTER
Winslade Park, Exeter EX5 1DS.
0392 282673
General 76.74 82.34 -0.13 3.00
Income 58.40 62.66† -0.25 6.10
International 55.23 59.26 +0.19 0.80
American 61.10 65.56 -0.36 0.30
Japan 44.51 47.76 +1.17 ...
Tst of Inv Trusts 53.62 57.53 +0.11 3.00

M & G SECURITIES LTD
Victoria Rd, Chelmsford CM1 1FB
Customer Services/Unit Dealing: 0245 390390
American Gen 397.20 419.30† -2.40 0.92
-do- Acc 490.10 517.30 -3.00 0.92
American Rec 417.30 441.30 -1.10 0.44
-do- Acc 477.50 504.90 -1.20 0.44
Am Sm Co Acc 120.30 128.10 -0.50 0.04
Australia Acc 145.60 154.00 -1.40 1.60
Capital 616.70 652.20† +0.50 3.14
-do- Acc 680.40 719.60 +0.50 3.14
Commodity Acc 386.40 408.70 -1.30 1.24
Compnd Gth 801.50 847.60 +0.60 3.15
Dividend 33.70 36.10 +0.10 4.24
-do- Acc 131.20 140.60 +0.50 4.74
Equity Inc 282.50 298.70† +1.00 5.33
European Div 56.80 60.50 -0.10 4.84
-do- Acc 64.20 68.30 -0.20 4.84
European Gen 375.10 396.70 -1.30 1.78
-do- Acc 468.60 495.60 -1.60 1.78
Extra Yield 352.60 377.30† +2.10 4.82
-do- Acc 1031.0 1103.3 +6.10 4.82
Far Eastern 267.30 282.70† +5.90 1.33
-do- Acc 351.60 371.90 +7.70 1.33
Fund of Inv 482.40 510.10 -0.10 2.47
-do- Acc 870.50 920.50 -0.20 2.47
General 52.20 55.20 +0.20 3.82
-do- Acc 137.50 145.40 +0.40 3.82
Gilt Fxd Int 62.20 62.20† +0.20 8.28
do Acc 153.60 153.80 +0.50 8.28
Gold 38.10 40.30 +0.10 1.91
-do- Acc 44.50 47.20 +0.10 1.91
High Inc 24.00 25.40 +0.10 5.10
-do- Acc 88.80 94.20 +0.50 5.10
Intl Growth 66.70 70.70 +0.10 1.14
-do- Acc 115.00 121.90 +0.10 1.14
Intl Inc 90.80 96.00 -0.50 5.10
Japan Gen Acc 44.30 46.90 +0.90 ...
Japan Smllr Cos 124.10 131.30 +1.80 ...
Midland 50.70 53.60 +0.20 4.31
-do- Acc 160.20 169.50 +0.60 4.31
Recovery 34.60 37.00 +0.20 3.41
-do- Acc 54.40 58.20 +0.20 3.41
Second Gen 58.80 62.20 +0.10 3.90
-do- Acc 143.90 152.20 +0.30 3.90
Smaller Cos 56.80 60.10† +0.10 3.75
-do- Acc 107.70 113.90 +0.10 3.75
Trustee 37.20 39.30 +0.10 4.32
Charifund 3 ‡112.63 ... +0.30 9.57
Charifund 2 614.20 620.40 +2.90 5.20
Pension ex I 849.20 870.50 +1.70 4.50
NAACIF Inc 3 145.75 ... ... 7.69
-do- Acc 3 ‡1076.7 ... -1.00 7.69

MARKS & SPENCER UNIT TRUST MANAGEMENT LTD
PO Box 410, Chester X, CH99 9QG.
0244 688066
Inv Port Inc 132.90 142.10† +0.21 2.41
-do- Acc 147.60 157.80† +0.21 2.41
UK Income 110.00 117.60† +0.43 2.98
-do- Acc 122.70 131.20† +0.43 2.98

MARTIN CURRIE UNIT TRUSTS LTD
Saltire Court, 20 Castle Terrace, Edinburgh EH1 2ES. 031 229 5252
Emerg Mkts 75.44 80.68† +0.54 0.62
Far East (Pacific) 126.90 134.70 +4.30 0.75
Income Growth 70.84 75.20† +1.49 4.34
European 65.28 69.29† -0.03 2.00
Nth American 58.95 62.57 -0.23 1.16
UK Growth 76.16 80.84 -0.05 1.46
Intl Growth 88.68 94.13 +0.44 0.73
Charities 106.60 113.10† +0.20 4.58
Intl Income 65.99 70.05† +0.34 4.21
Japan 44.76 47.51† +1.51 ...

MERCURY FUND MANAGERS LTD
33 King William St, EC4R 9AS. 071 280 2060
American 193.30 206.00 -0.80 ...
-do- Acc 206.60 219.40 -0.70 ...
Cash 100.80 100.80 ... 5.77
-do- Acc 128.30 128.30 ... 5.77
European Gth 190.90 202.60 -1.10 0.34
-do- Acc 204.40 216.90 -1.10 0.34
General 449.40 479.40† -1.00 2.71
-do- Acc 855.00 912.00† -2.00 2.71
Global Dist 133.00 139.80 ... 5.57
-do- Acc 148.80 156.50 ... 5.57
Income 135.00 144.00† +0.30 5.06
-do- Acc 197.60 210.80† +0.50 5.08
International 374.70 399.00 +0.60 0.93
-do- Acc 497.00 529.30 +0.90 0.93

Japan 156.00 166.40 +1.80 ...
-do- Acc 161.10 170.80 +1.90 ...
New Europe 132.20 141.10† -0.10 1.42
-do- Acc 134.40 143.40† -0.10 1.42
Recovery 285.90 305.00 +0.70 2.30
-do- Acc 357.20 381.10 +0.70 2.30
European Inc 73.99 78.40 +0.14 2.99
-do- Acc 93.86 99.45 +0.16 2.99
Brit Blue Chip 70.83 75.41 -0.28 3.66
-do- Acc 82.94 88.29 -0.34 3.66
Portfolio 72.17 76.73 -0.08 3.12
-do- Acc 82.07 87.25 -0.09 3.12
Gold General 67.46 71.96 +0.81 3.37
-do- Acc 68.38 72.94 +0.82 3.37
Pacific 84.77 90.42 +0.85 0.55
-do- Acc 89.60 95.57 +0.89 0.55
UK Smaller Cos 49.32 52.61† -0.07 1.09
-do- Acc 55.05 58.72† -0.08 1.09

MIDLAND UNIT TRUSTS LTD
192 Eyre Street, Sheffield, S1 3RD.
Dealing: 0742 528 200
Enquiries: 0742 529 076
Balanced Dis 57.10 61.07 +0.04 3.20
-do- Acc 57.10 61.07 +0.04 3.20
British Dis 76.14 81.43† +0.01 2.39
-do- Acc 86.19 92.18 +0.01 2.39
European Gth 164.80 175.90 -0.40 0.16
-do- Acc 206.80 220.80 -0.50 0.16
Extra High Inc 67.88 72.60 +0.17 6.61
-do- Acc 118.00 126.20 +0.30 6.61
FT-SE 100 Index 47.97 51.30 +0.07 2.92
-do- Acc 47.97 51.30 +0.07 2.92
Gilt Fixed Int 56.36 58.67† -0.01 7.02
-do- Acc 148.30 154.40 +0.10 7.02
High Yield 214.40 229.30 +0.90 5.11
-do- Acc 491.90 526.10 +1.90 5.11
Income 272.20 291.20† +1.50 3.84
-do- Acc 566.00 605.40 +3.20 3.84
Japan Gth 290.30 310.50† +5.50 ...
-do- Acc 306.40 327.70 +5.80 ...
Mandarin Acc 92.74 99.10 +0.27 1.64
North American 166.30 177.90 -1.80 0.50
-do- Acc 209.10 223.60 -2.40 0.50

MORGAN GRENFELL INVESTMENT FUNDS LTD
20 Finsbury Circus, London EC2M 1UT.
Dealing: 071 826 0826.
Enquiries: 071 826 0123
American Gth 265.20 282.30 -3.00 0.43
Deposit Inc 100.02 100.02 +0.01 6.90
Deposit Acc 121.59 121.59† +0.01 6.90
Euro Gth Acc 256.50 273.70† -0.30 ...
Europa 117.90 126.20† -0.50 ...
Intl Gth 162.90 173.80 +0.60 ...
Japan Tracker 66.39 70.34 +2.34 ...
UK Equity Inc 143.80 154.70 +0.50 5.07
-do- Acc 173.20 186.30 +0.60 5.07
UK Ind Tracker 140.20 150.10† -0.10 3.51
US Eq Ind Trkr 197.20 209.30† -1.20 1.26
-do- Acc 208.60 221.30† -1.20 1.26
Asian Trader 141.60 153.80 +1.30 1.03

MURRAY JOHNSTONE UNIT TRUST MANAGEMENT
7 West Nile St, Glasgow G2 2PX. 0345 898 939
American Inc 175.50 179.30† -0.70 2.61
European 60.13 61.40 -0.26 1.24
Olympiad 52.86 54.19† +0.09 0.80
Global Bond 48.11 48.63† -0.06 7.14
Smaller Cos 81.23 83.68 +0.18 1.77
Equity Income 91.22 93.79† +0.48 4.90
UK Growth 81.41 83.81 +0.16 1.92

NM UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD
The Bilton Centre, North Harbour, Portsmouth. Enquiries: 0705 372222.
Dealing: 0705 387730
American Acc 49.03 52.28 -0.32 0.81
Australian Acc 301.50 323.40 +3.70 ...
Conscience 63.32 67.57 +0.74 1.49
-do- Acc 67.99 72.56 +0.80 1.49
European 166.70 177.80 -0.30 1.16
-do- Acc 177.80 189.60 -0.40 1.16
Extra Income 71.35 76.14 +0.16 6.21
-do- Acc 107.60 114.80 +0.30 6.21
Far East Gth 145.50 155.50 -0.10 0.06
Gilt Fxd Inc 58.13 61.53 +0.11 7.49
Gold 30.53 32.82 +0.52 ...
-do- Acc 32.88 35.35 +0.57 ...
Income 51.23 54.64 +0.26 5.49
-do- Acc 153.60 163.80 +0.80 5.49
International 28.59 30.67 -0.10 1.17
-do- Acc 41.07 44.06 -0.15 1.17
Jap Sm Cos Acc 262.80 280.30 +0.60 ...
S pore Mly Acc 154.10 165.20 -4.40 ...
Smllr Cos Acc 24.03 25.83 +0.07 1.97
Special Sits 31.65 34.03 -0.05 2
-do- Acc 36.12 38.83 -0.06 2
Tokyo 71.82 76.60 +1.37 ...
-do- Acc 72.55 77.38 +1.38 ...

N & P UNIT TRUST MANAGEMENT LTD
35 Fountain St, Manchester M2 2AF.
061 237 5322
N&P UK Growth 67.00 71.28 +0.14 2.95
N&P Gilt Fxd Int 73.57 77.86† +0.10 7.02
N&P Higher Inc 184.30 195.60 +0.50 4.98
N&P UK Income 99.01 105.90 +0.53 4.10
N&P Intl 84.34 90.69 +0.47 1.98
N&P Smaller Cos 71.04 75.98† -0.04 1.78

NEWTON FUND MANAGERS
2 London Bridge, London SE1 9RA.
071 407 4404
General 157.99 168.08 -0.29 2.54
Global 268.40 285.54 -1.39 1.29
Growth 103.06 109.64 +0.04 2.50
Income 196.48 209.03 +0.11 4.60
Intl Bond 127.89 135.68 -0.40 8.30

PEARL UNIT TRUST LTD
PO Box 500, Peterborough PE2 6ER.
0733 470470. Dealing: 0800 626577.
Growth 137.10 144.30 -0.20 2.78
-do- Acc 237.40 249.80 -0.40 2.78
Income 215.00 228.70 +0.60 3.82
Intl Equity 213.70 227.30 +1.30 1.11
-do- Acc 233.90 248.80 +1.40 1.11
Equity 213.50 227.10 -0.40 2.67
-do- Acc 432.90 460.50 -0.70 2.67
UK Intl 25 Acc 67.44 71.74 -0.02 2.12
UK Income 58.60 62.33 +0.18 3.38
UK Smllr Co Acc 68.68 73.06 +0.13 1.73
New Europe Acc 60.60 64.46 -0.24 1.59

PERPETUAL UNIT TRUST
48 Hart Street, Henley on Thames.
0491 417000
Asian Smllr Mkt 82.74 88.50 -0.55 0.45
PEP Gth Inc 95.67 102.33 +0.04 1.45
Intl Gth 449.74 481.01 +0.65 0.94
Income 287.46 307.45 +2.72 3.62
W wide Recov 278.47 297.83 -1.35 0.85
American Gth 199.79 213.68 -4.13 0.01
Intl Emerg Cos 169.46 181.25 -2.14 0.19
Far East Gth 184.07 196.87 -2.47 0.15
European Gth 108.49 116.04 -0.62 1.36
UK Growth 72.85 77.92 +0.23 3.15
High Income 79.00 84.50 +0.44 4.86
Japanese Gth 176.00 187.66 +2.23 0.01

PROLIFIC UNIT TRUST MANAGERS
Walbrook Hse, 23 Walbrook, London EC4N 8LD. Dealing: 0800 262443
International 169.20 180.00 +0.90 0.92
High Income 107.90 114.70 +1.40 3.79
Conv Gilt 106.90 115.80 -0.30 6.80
Far East 293.10 311.80† +8.70 0.34

PROSPERITY UNIT TRUST MANAGEMENT
1 Sessions Hse Sq, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX. 0622 674751
American 49.98 53.17 -0.33 0.55
Emerging Mkts 61.08 64.93 -0.28 0.23

General 47.30 50.21 -0.02 3.41
International 82.01 87.24 +0.03 1.31
Gilt Units 26.55 27.37† +0.03 8.02
Global PEP 34.86 37.09 ... 2.10
Income Gth 62.75 66.76† -0.40 5.27
European 42.39 44.90† +0.03 1.18
Gilt/Fixed Int 25.49 27.12† +0.01 6.14

PRUDENTIAL UNIT TRUSTS LTD
51/59 Ilford Hill, Ilford, Essex IG1 2DL.
081 478 3377. Pricebank: 0426 925091
Pru Mngd Tst** 29.74 31.80† +0.19 1.62
Pru Citi Hvn Inc 101.24 101.24† +0.02 5.70
-do- Acc 104.30 104.30† +0.01 5.70
Pru Equity 655.47 701.03 +1.05 2.42
Pru Equity Inc 79.96 85.51† +0.14 4.49
Pru European 171.37 183.28 +0.39 1.84
Pru Global Gth 77.22 82.58† +0.24 1.50
Pru High Inc 85.97 91.94† +1.51 8.66
Pru Intl 153.62 164.29 +0.83 1.32
Pru Intl Bnt Co 65.30 69.83 -0.20 0.92
Pru Japanese 164.63 176.07† -5.35 ...
Pru Nth Amer 144.60 154.65 -1.75 0.45
Pru Pacific Mkr 70.28 75.16† +0.80 1.87
Pru Premr Inc 49.77 51.82 -0.01 7.39
Pru Smllr Cos 80.02 85.54 +0.37 2.00
Pru Spec Sits 97.13 103.88 +0.05 2.23
Pru UK Grwth 108.38 115.91† -0.75 2.34
** Formerly Holborn Trust

ROTHSCHILD FUND MANAGEMENT LTD
St Swithin's Lane, London EC4N 8NR.
Dealing: 071 634 2981/4
NC Income 152.57 164.01 +0.04 3.69
NC Japan 234.60 251.43 +6.33 ...
NC Maj UK Cos 92.21 99.19 -0.20 2.54
NC America Inc 483.19 518.03 -2.30 0.55
-do- Acc 561.22 601.69 -2.67 0.55
NC Smlr UK Cos 251.14 273.86† +1.17 1.85
NC European 249.12 265.88 -0.45 1.52

SAVE & PROSPER GROUP
16-22 Western Rd, Romford RM1 3LB.
0708 766966 or 0800 929929 (IFAs only)
Amer Inc Gth 74.33 79.07 +0.12 3.84
Capital Units 139.51 148.40 -0.60 1.40
Commodity 95.68 101.70† -0.10 1.31
European Gth 147.60 157.00 -0.50 1.47
Financial Sec 166.20 176.80 +0.80 2.01
High Return 207.20 220.40 +1.00 4.93
High Yield 200.50 213.20† +1.10 4.04
Income Units 104.80 111.40† -0.20 5.73
Investment 166.60 177.20 +0.30 1.56
Japan Gth 124.30 132.20 +2.80 ...
Japan Smaller 160.40 170.60 +2.20 ...
Masterfund 44.23 47.05 +0.07 1.02
Scotbits 241.90 257.30 +0.90 1.75
Scotshares 248.90 264.70 ... 2.72
Scotyields 217.20 231.00† +1.20 4.36
Select Intl 126.60 134.60 +0.70 0.69
Smaller Cos 210.30 223.70† +0.60 4.50
Special Situation 106.80 113.60 -0.10 0.79
UK Equity 218.50 232.40 +2.40 3.08
US Growth 142.70 151.80† -0.80 0.29

SCHRODER UNIT TRUSTS LTD
33 Gutter Lane, London EC2V 8AS. Client Hse: 0800 526 535. Broker Hse: 0800 526 540
American 241.15 257.22 -3.83 0.70
-do- Acc 260.52 277.89 -4.13 0.70
Australian 133.86 142.78† -1.37 1.39
-do- Acc 157.37 167.86 -1.61 1.39
UK Enterprise 205.67 219.38† +1.38 2.74
-do- Acc 237.59 253.43 +1.60 2.74
European Gth 59.54 63.50† -0.52 1.37
-do- Acc 61.69 65.73 -0.54 1.37
Euro Smllr Cos 55.53 59.23† -0.49 0.69
-do- Acc 55.91 59.64 -0.49 0.69
Far Eastern Gth 63.36 67.58† -0.38 ...
-do- Acc 64.38 68.67 -0.39 ...
Fixed Interest 52.25 55.10† +0.06 8.60
-do- Acc 64.20 67.71 +0.08 8.60
Gilt Income 102.79 108.32 +0.32 8.45
-do- Acc 143.65 151.38† +0.45 8.45
Income 297.88 317.73† +2.54 4.52
-do- Acc 878.78 937.38 +7.50 4.52
Japan Enterprise 56.54 60.30 +0.76 ...
-do- Acc 56.54 60.30 +0.76 ...
Japan Smllr Cos 351.69 375.13† +1.63 ...
-do- Acc 352.39 375.88 +1.63 ...
Pacific Gth 81.19 86.60† -0.33 0.55
-do- Acc 83.72 89.30 -0.34 0.55
Smaller Cos 181.21 193.29† -0.30 1.30
-do- Acc 207.68 221.52 -0.35 1.30
Tokyo 88.76 94.67† +0.99 0.01
-do- Acc 89.66 95.63 +1.00 0.01
UK Equity 202.17 215.64† +0.66 3.08
-do- Acc 374.39 399.34 +1.25 3.08
US Smllr Cos 131.10 139.84 -2.61 ...
-do- Acc 131.10 139.84 -2.61 ...
World Fd 67.65 72.16† -0.08 1.73
-do- Acc 71.40 76.16 -0.08 1.73

SCOTTISH AMICABLE UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD
150 St Vincent St, Glasgow G2 5NQ.
041 204 2200
Equity Income 42.54 45.30 -0.04 4.43
Equity Strategy 62.62 66.69 -0.01 1.80
European Opps 70.63 75.22 -0.91 3.22
Maximum Inc 98.06 100.64 +0.01 5.64
UK Smaller Cos 47.92 51.03 -0.15 3.21

SCOTTISH LIFE INVESTMENTS
19 St Andrew Sq, Edinburgh. 031 225 2211
UK Equity 338.50 361.80 -0.90 2.99
American 251.40 266.80 -3.00 0.93
Pacific 299.50 320.70 +4.40 0.87
European 449.00 480.20 -3.20 1.20
Worldwide 76.32 81.63 -0.43 1.41

SCOTTISH MUTUAL INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT
109 St Vincent St, Glasgow G2 5HN.
041 248 6100
UK Equity 301.00 320.30 -0.80 2.94
UK Sm Cos Eqy 191.50 204.20 -0.30 2.71
European 322.70 343.30 -0.40 2.00
North American 256.20 272.60 -1.20 0.52
Income Plus Inc 63.52 67.58† ... 4.14
UK Spec Sits 65.08 69.24† -0.45 2.70

SCOTTISH PROVIDENT INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT LTD
6 St Andrew Sq, Edinburgh EH2 2YA.
031 558 2341/2/3
Equity Gth Acc 24.99 26.75 -0.01 3.09
Intl Growth Acc 27.49 29.42 ... 1.13
Global Inc Acc 30.53 32.66 -0.11 4.06
Market Ldrs Acc 25.66 27.46† +0.10 3.09

SG TOUCHE REMNANT
Mermaid Hse, 2 Puddle Dock, London EC4V 3AT. 071 248 1250
American Gth 83.48 89.28† -0.91 ...
Euro Spec Sits 43.18 45.94 -0.18 ...
-do- Acc 45.73 48.64 -0.19 ...
Far East Opps 29.74 32.07 +0.02 ...
-do- Acc 30.56 32.95 +0.02 ...
General Growth 97.85 104.80 ... 2.19
Global Tech 118.20 127.70 -2.20 ...
Income Growth 99.01 108.40 +0.20 3.80
Income Monthly 56.61 60.54 +0.11 4.60
Japan Growth 70.14 74.98 +1.10 ...
Overseas Gth 73.50 78.32 -0.18 ...
Smaller Cos 69.37 74.52 +0.06 1.79
Special Opps 98.10 105.40† +1.20 2.33
Wld Spec Sits 44.74 48.11† -0.31 ...
-do- Acc 44.85 48.22† -0.31 ...

STANDARD LIFE TRUST MANAGEMENT LTD
3 George St, Edinburgh EH2 2XZ.
0800 393777
Managed 43.06 45.75 -0.30 1.84
Equity Gth Acc 58.28 61.93 -0.30 1.21

UK Eq General 41.94 44.57 -0.38 2.35
-do- Acc 55.04 58.48 -0.40 2.35
European Acc 40.63 43.17 -0.40 1.16
Far East Acc 49.42 52.51 +0.40 0.32
Gilt Fxd Int Inc 30.89 32.87 +0.20 6.73
N American Acc 44.88 47.69 -0.00 0.73
O/s Lgr Cos Acc 261.70 284.00 -1.20 1.08
UK Eq High Inc 34.70 36.87 ... 3.92
-do- Acc 40.64 43.18 ... 3.92
UK Lgr Cos Inc 288.30 312.50 -2.40 3.80
UK Lgr Cos Acc 370.80 402.40 -3.10 3.80

STATE STREET UNIT TRUST MANAGEMENT LTD
Birchin Court, 20 Birchin Lane, London EC3V 9AQ. 071 626 1977
Global A N233.38 N253.59 ... 1.31
US Eq $2.066 $2.192 ... 0.71
Far East Eq Y206.7 Y219.6 ... ...
Japan Eq Y208.0 Y220.9 ... ...
FT Europe 112.40 119.30 ... 1.62
FT North Am $1.734 $1.837 ... 0.80
FT Japan Y205.4 Y218.1 ... ...
FT Asia Ex Jap 116.20 123.40 ... 1.41

STEWART IVORY UNIT TRUST MANAGERS
45 Charlotte Sq, Edinburgh.
031 226 3271
American 351.90 374.20 -2.10 0.28
British 919.60 972.90† +2.90 4.36
European 378.80 402.20 -1.50 1.49
Japan 127.40 135.60 +1.40 ...
New Pacific 286.00 304.60 +1.10 1.28
Mngd Cash 96.19 96.19 ... 5.08
Majority Stlg 100.40 101.40 +0.01 4.86
Inv Tst 178.90 189.60† +0.40 1.50
Saints PPP 366.00 385.30 ... ...

SUN ALLIANCE
Admin, 5 Rayleigh Rd, Hutton, Essex.
0277 227300.
Dealing: 0277 690389
Equity Acc 719.20 769.20 +2.00 2.33
N America Acc 114.20 122.10 -1.60 0.15
Far East Acc 114.00 121.90 +1.20 ...
W wide Bond 62.85 66.72 -0.12 5.22
European 80.67 86.28 -0.06 0.52
Equity Income 80.56 86.16 +0.40 3.79

SUN LIFE OF CANADA
Basingview, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 2DZ.
Dealing: 0256 841414
American Gth 35.05 37.49 -0.11 0.77
Managed Assets 116.18 124.26 -0.17 3.97
UK Income 35.88 38.38 -0.02 3.28
UK Growth 35.47 37.94 -0.13 3.23
Worldwide Gth 29.80 31.88 +0.07 0.49

TSB UNIT TRUSTS LTD
Charlton Place, Andover, Hants. SP10 1RE.
0264 346794
American 206.10 219.26 -2.38 0.19
-do- Acc 226.37 240.82 -2.62 0.19
British Gth 84.14 89.51† -0.96 2.00
-do- Acc 99.00 105.32† -1.26 2.00
European 91.62 97.47† -0.38 0.80
-do- Acc 96.65 102.81† +0.40 0.80
Extra Inc 181.67 193.27† +0.65 4.24
-do- Acc 289.78 308.28† +1.04 4.24
General Unit 259.71 276.29 +2.79 2.64
-do- Acc 512.47 545.18 +5.50 2.64
Income 316.89 337.12 +1.86 3.81
-do- Acc 645.47 686.67 +3.81 3.81
International 477.86 508.36 +1.49 0.64
-do- Acc 624.64 664.51 +1.95 0.64
Pacific 313.31 333.31 +1.39 0.18
-do- Acc 328.13 349.07 +1.45 0.18
Premier Income 50.93 53.05 -0.01 6.89
-do- Acc 104.59 108.95 -0.02 6.89
Nat Resources 94.10 100.11 +1.46 0.84
-do- Acc 103.19 109.78 +1.61 0.84
Selected Opps 91.41 97.24† +0.18 1.19
-do- Acc 114.44 121.74† +0.23 1.19

TARGET TRUST MANAGERS
Chariton Place, Andover, Hampshire SP10 1RE. 0264 346747
American Eagle 128.60 137.30 -1.70 0.22
Australia 7.499 8.000 +0.080 1.00
Equity 181.50 194.10 +0.50 4.40
Euro Spec Sits 141.60 150.30 +0.20 0.58
Financial 39.94 42.70 +0.20 2.84
Global Opps Inc 88.01 93.89 -0.14 2.14
-do- Acc 91.22 97.32 -0.14 2.14
Gold Gen Inc 42.46 45.50 +0.10 0.97
-do- Acc 81.02 86.90 +0.27 0.97
Income 117.60 125.80† +0.23 4.91
Japan General 136.20 144.90 +3.90 ...
Preference 22.06 23.73 -0.02 7.64
UK Capital 101.80 108.80† +0.19 3.10
Worldwide Cap 195.20 208.00 -0.10 3.09
World Income 83.28 88.82 -0.12 3.42

THORNTON UNIT MANAGERS LTD
33 Cavendish Sq, London W1M 7HF.
071 493 7262.
Dealing: 071 493 8545
Amer Smll Cos 66.48 70.91† -1.41 ...
-do- Acc 68.57 73.14† -1.45 ...
Cash 51.47 51.47 +0.01 6.22
-do- Acc 61.25 61.25 +0.01 6.22
European Opps 61.45 65.46 +0.03 0.45
-do- Acc 62.08 66.14 +0.03 0.45
Far East Opps 136.22 145.30† +0.78 ...
-do- Acc 139.39 148.68† +0.79 ...
Gold/Nat. Res 38.16 40.70 +0.11 ...
-do- Acc 39.24 41.85 +0.11 ...
Japan 69.41 74.01 +1.45 ...
-do- Acc 69.41 74.01 +1.45 ...
Little Dragons 62.64 66.81 +0.01 0.74
-do- Acc 64.26 68.54 +0.02 0.74
Oriental Income 39.83 42.48† +0.39 3.74
-do- Acc 50.85 54.24† +0.41 3.74
Tiger 203.68 217.25 +0.45 1.21
-do- Acc 213.06 227.26 +0.47 1.21
UK Small Cos 65.75 70.32† +0.10 2.32
-do- Acc 76.57 81.89† +0.11 2.32

UNITED CHARITIES UNIT TRUSTS
Unicorn Hse, 252 Romford Rd, London E7.
081 534 5544
United Charities 204.80 218.40 ... 4.13

WAVERLEY UNIT TRUST MANAGEMENT LTD
13 Charlotte Sq, Edinburgh EH2 4DJ.
031 225 1551
Australian Gold 12.31 13.09 +0.31 0.50
Pacific Basin 29.95 31.86 +0.44 0.60
Canadian Gth 38.65 41.11 -0.04 0.10
Global Bond $0.958 $0.998 +0.000 7.25
Penny Share 21.13 22.47 -0.08 1.50

WHITTINGDALE UNIT TRUST MANAGERS
2 Honey Lane, London EC2V 8BT.
071 606 3132
City Reserve 52.35 52.35 ... 5.83
Gilt Growth 66.51 69.22 +0.30 ...
Gilt Income 52.45 54.57† ... 8.00
Short Dtd Gilt 110.60 111.80 -0.10 3.90
US Govmnt Bd $0.712 $0.721 +0.000 ...
Challenger 94.33 96.52 -0.10 ...

WOOLWICH UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD
2 White Oak Square, Swanley BR8 7AG.
081 298 4000
Stockmarket Fd 66.19 70.41 +0.02 2.19

Source: Finstat
* Yield expressed as CAR (Compound Annual Return); † Ex dividend; ‡ Middle price; ... No significant data.

FT-SE VOLUMES

Abbey Natl	1,200	Coats Vly	7,700	Legal & Gn	2,100	Scot & New	459
Alld-Lyons	753	Cm Union	1,000	Lloyds Bk	2,400	Scot Power	5,400
Anglian W	961	Courtaulds	439	MB Cardn	1,600	Sears	4,400
Argyll Gp	4,000	De La Rue	413	Marks Spr	3,100	Svrn Trent	2,800
Arjo Wiggn	7,500	Eng China C	638	NFC	1,000	Shell Trans	4,300
AB Foods	446	Enterpr Oil	2,100	NatWst Bk	3,200	Slebe	1,300
BAA	392	Fisons	5,300	Nat Power	3,500	SmKl Bch	2,600
BAT Inds	1,800	Forte	2,600	Nth Wst W	2,100	Smith Nph	2,300
BOC	1,200	GRE	2,200	Nthn Fds	1,100	Smith (WH)	1,300
BP	12,000	GUS A	630	P & O	1,700	Sthn Elec	721
BT	4,900	Gen Acc	1,100	Pearson	655	Std Chartd	489
BTR	3,700	Gen Elec	7,700	PowerGen	4,100	Sun Allnce	2,500
Bk of Scot	1,000	Glaxo	5,900	Prudential	8,900	TI Gp	5,700
Barclays	5,100	Granada	1,000	RTZ	642	TSB	2,200
Bass	1,300	Grand Met	2,200	Rank Org	226	Tate & Lyle	687
Blue Circle	1,600	Guinness	5,400	Reckitt Col	570	Tesco	8,400
Boots	1,900	HSBC	7,700	Redland	1,500	Thames W	1,400
Bowater	260	Hanson	8,300	Reed Intl	1,700	Thrn EMI	359
Brit Airwys	7,200	ICI	1,200	Rentokil	2,200	Tomkins	2,500
Brit Gas	5,700	Inchcape	839	Reuters	537	Unilever	2,100
Brit Steel	9,200	Kingfisher	1,200	Rothmans	656	Utd Bisc	7,200
Burmah Cast	159	Kwik Save	441	Ryl Ins	5,700	Vodafone	2,800
Cable Wire	1,200	LASMO	1,000	Ryl Bk Scot	1,800	Wellcome	652
Cadbury	2,200	Ladbroke	6,400	Sainsbury	2,700	Whitbd 'A'	1,000
Carlton Cm	1,400	Land Secs	8,500	Scot Hydro	4,600	Wllms Hld	684

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones 3448.62 (+21.98)
S&P Composite 450.43 (+2.12)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Av'ge 18727.90 (+554.53)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng 6051.26 (+92.93)

Amsterdam:
CBS Tendency 107.6 (-1.4)

Sydney: AO 1669.6 (-6.0)

Frankfurt:
DAX 1696.19 (+11.11)

FT 30 share: 2247.3 (-1.7)

Brussels:
General 6269.17 (-48.37)

Paris: CAC 525.96 (-1.31)

Zurich: SKA Gen 488.3 (+3.6)

London:
FT A All-Share 1411.80 (-2.77)
FT 500 1546.40 (-6.54)
FT Gold Mines 97.9 (+0.8)
FT Fixed Interest 112.91 (-0.01)
FT Govt Secs 97.73 (+0.39)
Bargains 33613
SEAQ Volume 705.8m
USM (Datastrm) 131.81 (-0.26)

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

First Dealings	Last Dealings	Last Declaration	For Settlement
March 8	March 19	June 17	June 28

Call options were taken out on 18/3/93: Amstrad, Arcon, ASDA, Casket, Diploma, Ferranti, Guinness, Hartstone, HTV, Pentos, Premier, Ratners, Southend Props, Standard & Chartered.
Put: Standard & Chartered. Puts & Calls: Airtours, Costain.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Close	Volume
FT-SE 100	Mar 93	2889.0	2912.0	2875.0	2881.0	12894
Previous open interest: 50989	Jun 93	2903.0	2928.0	2891.0	2896.5	9019
Three Month Sterling	Jun 93	94.31	94.38	94.24	94.31	44614
Previous open interest: 242281	Sep 93	94.53	94.55	94.43	94.48	13976
	Dec 93	94.56	94.58	94.43	94.49	12541
Three Mth Eurodollar	Jun 93	96.65	96.69	96.64	96.68	1630
Previous open interest: 15881	Sep 93	96.48	96.50	96.48	96.49	218
Three Mth Euro DM	Jun 93	93.19	93.27	93.16	93.20	47545
Previous open interest: 458226	Sep 93	93.92	93.94	93.86	93.92	15469
US Treasury Bond	Mar 93				112-00	0
Previous open interest: 318	Jun 93				110-12	0
Long Gilt	Mar 93	105-10	106-00	105-08	106-02	681
Previous open interest: 71192	Jun 93	106-03	107-02	105-30	106-27	52763
Japanese Govmt Bond	Jun 93	110.15	110.17	110.12	110.12	450
	Sep 93				109.45	0
German Govmt Bond	Jun 93	95.95	96.05	95.60	95.74	100816
Previous open interest: 142715	Sep 93	96.08	96.09	95.83	95.89	190
Three month ECU	Jun 93	92.09	92.20	92.05	92.06	1482
Previous open interest: 15203	Sep 93	92.83	92.97	92.81	92.82	487
Euro Swiss Franc	Jun 93	95.56	95.72	95.55	95.68	9067
Previous open interest: 38466	Sep 93	95.93	96.00	95.93	96.00	396
Italian Govmt Bond	Jun 93	97.06	97.34	96.99	97.16	8967
Previous open interest: 45795	Sep 93	96.98	96.98	96.87	96.99	2

MONEY MARKETS

Exchange index compared with 1985 was up at 79.2 (day's range 78.0-79.2).

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for March 18	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	2.7030-2.7441	2.7407-2.7441	1/4-1/8ds	7/8-1 1/8ds
Brussels	49.55-50.25	50.09-50.20	7-11ds	23-28ds
Copenhagen	9.2450-9.4150	9.3640-9.3860	9 1/2-10 1/4ds	20 1/2-23 1/4ds
Dublin	1.0070-1.0098	1.0075-1.0096	39-49ds	120-138ds
Frankfurt	2.4062-2.4434	2.4342-2.4374	3/8-1/2ds	1 3/8-1 1/2ds
Lisbon	221.61-226.05	225.59-226.05	231-270ds	580-672ds
Madrid	171.80-174.76	174.22-174.41	146-158ds	384-410ds
Milan	2326.90-2363.90	2351.70-2360.70	9-11ds	28-31ds
Montreal	1.8102-1.8395	1.8374-1.8395	0.26-0.16pr	0.39-0.21pr
New York	1.4480-1.4745	1.4735-1.4745	0.38-0.36pr	1.00-0.97pr
Oslo	10.2260-10.4040	10.3360-10.3590	1 1/4-3 1/4ds	5 1/8-7 1/4ds
Paris	8.1770-8.3230	8.2990-8.3130	3 7/8-4 1/4ds	10 1/2-11 3/8ds
Stockholm	11.2790-11.5350	11.4960-11.5350	2 3/8-4 1/4ds	8 3/8-11 1/2ds
Tokyo	169.34-172.60	172.32-172.60	1/2-1/4pr	1 1/4-1pr
Vienna	16.92-17.17	17.12-17.17	1 7/8-2 7/8ds	5 7/8-7 3/8ds
Zurich	2.2147-2.2480	2.2385-2.2416	1/4pr-par	5/8-3/8pr

Source: Extel. Premium - pr. Discount - ds.

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.4652-1.4677
Australia dollar	2.057-2.060
Bahrain dinar	0.5405-0.5525
Brazil cruzeiro*	33538.0-33561.2
Cyprus pound	0.715-0.725
Finland marka	8.6445-8.7605
Greece drachma	323.25-330.25
Hong Kong dollar	11.3736-11.3830
India rupee	45.24-46.20
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4405-0.4505
Malaysia ringgit	3.8204-3.8245
Mexico peso	4.45-4.55
New Zealand dollar	2.7491-2.7562
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.367-5.493
Singapore dollar	2.4182-2.4215
S Africa rand (fin)	6.8343-6.8833
S Africa rand (com)	4.7029-4.7106
U A E dirham	5.258-5.382

Barclays Bank GTS * Lloyds Bank

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

Australia	1.3986-1.3995
Austria	11.64-11.66
Belgium (Com)	34.03-34.07
Canada	1.2483-1.2488
Denmark	6.39-6.40
France	5.650-5.655
Germany	1.6565-1.6575
Hong Kong	7.733-7.734
Ireland	1.4605-1.4625
Italy	1602.0-1607.0
Japan	117.03-117.08
Malaysia	2.5975-2.5985
Netherlands	1.8635-1.8640
Norway	7.0625-7.0725
Portugal	153.4-153.6
Singapore	1.6442-1.6452
Spain	118.6-118.8
Sweden	7.8025-7.8225
Switzerland	1.5285-1.5295

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6 Finance Hse 7
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 13 Low 5 Week fixed: 6 1/16
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 5 3/4; 3 mth 5 5/16. Sell: 2 mth 5 3/4; 3 mth 5 1/4.

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	5 31/32-5 27/32	5 31/32-5 27/32	5 29/32-5 25/32	5 3/4-5 5/8	
Sterling Money Rates:	6 1/16-6 1/16	6 1/16-5 15/16	6-5 7/8	5 15/16-5 13/16	5 15/16-5 13/16
Interbank:	6 1/4-6 1/16	6 1/16-5 15/16	6-5 7/8	5 15/16-5 13/16	5 15/16-5 13/16

Overnight: open 6 1/4, close 5.

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Local Authority Deps:	6 1/8	n/a	6	5 7/8	5 13/16
Sterling CDs:	6 1/8-6 1/16	6-5 15/16	5 15/16-5 7/8	5 7/8-5 13/16	5 13/16-5 3/4
Dollar CDs:	3.04	n/a	3.08	3.18	3.41
Building Society CDs:	6 1/8-6 1/16	6 1/16-5 15/16	6-5 7/8	5 15/16-5 13/16	5 13/16-5 3/4

ECGD: Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance. Make-up day: Feb 26, 1993 Agreed rates Mar 24, 1993 to April 25, 1993 Scheme I: 7.35 %. Schemes II & III: 7.47 %. Reference rate Jan 30, 1993 to Feb 26, 1993 Scheme IV & V: 6.228 %.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	3 1/16-2 15/16	3 1/16-2 15/16	3 1/8-3	3 1/4-3 1/8	3 1/4-2 3/4
Deutschemark:	8 3/8-8 5/16	8 1/4-8 1/8	7 23/32-7 21/32	7 5/16-7 1/4	8 3/4-8 1/4
French Franc:	11 3/4-11 1/4	11 3/4-11 1/2	11 3/4-11 1/4	9 11/16-9 9/16	11 3/4-10 3/4
Swiss Franc:	5 1/2-5 3/8	5 3/8-5 1/4	5 1/8-5	4 7/8-4 3/4	5 1/2-4 1/2
Yen:	3 1/4-3 1/8	3 1/4-3 1/8	3 5/16-3 3/16	3 1/4-3 1/8	3 1/4-2 3/4

GOLD AND PRECIOUS METALS (Bank ...)

Bullion: Open $329.20-329.60 Close: $330.20-330.60 High: $330.30-330.80 Low: $328.00-328.50 Krugerrand: $329.00-331.00 (£222.00-224.00)
Sovereigns: Old $78.50-81.50 (£51.00-53.00) New $78.50-81.50 (£51.00-53.00)
Platinum: $348.75 (£237.15) Silver: $3.66 (£2.475) Palladium: $105.50 (£71.75)

LIFFE OPTIONS

Series		Calls Apr	Calls Jul	Calls Oct	Puts Apr	Puts Jul	Puts Oct
Alld Lyon	550	25	41	51	10	29	36
(*653)	600	5	18	30	41	62	67
ASDA	67	10	15	18	2	5	5
(*75)	76	4½	10½	13½	5½	8	10
Bacc	550	40	55	72	4	20	26
(*575½)	600	11	30	43	28	45	54
Boots	500	22	31	46	10	26	32
(*512)	550	3½	14	24	43	59	62
Br Airways	280	17	26	33	6	20	25
(*285)	300	7	16	24	15	31	36
BP	280	24	32	38	3	10	15
(*299½)	300	10	21	27	9½	19	24
	330	2½	10	15	32	38	42
Br Steel	80	12	16	19	2	5½	8
(*90)	90	5	9½	12	5	10½	13
C & W	700	23	44	58	16	40	48
(*705)	750	5½	24	36	52	72	79
CU	550	39	57	66	4	16	24
(*611)	629	10	30	39	27	38	49
Courtauld	550	36	51	63	6	22	30
(*577½)	600	8½	26	39	30	50	57
GKN	460	17	37	43	9	21	31
(*467½)	500	3	18	26	37	45	54
Grand Met	460	14	34	43	14	28	35
(*457)	500	3½	18	25	45	54	59
ICI	1200	47	93	100	25	55	75
(*1215)	1250	22	70	78	50	80	102
	1300	9	50	60	87	112	135
Kingfishr	535	21	35	45	11	29	33
(*540½)	584	3½	16	25	45	62	65
Ladbroke	180	19	25	33	5½	12	17
(*196½)	200	8½	15	23	15	26	28
Land Sec	500	24	34	40	4½	22	25
(*516½)	550	3	11	17	35	56	57
M & S	330	24	32	39	3	11	16
(*349)	360	6	16	24	15	27	30
Sainsbury	500	27	40	54	7	22	25
(*515)	550	5	18	28	34	48	53
Shell	550	29	46	53	4½	13	22
(*571½)	600	4½	19	27	31	38	47
Smid Bch	420	30	46	55	7	18	25
(*437)	460	8	26	36	28	40	45
Storehse	150	20	28	33	3	11	14
(*200)	200	8	17	22	10	20	24
Trafalgar	64	8	12	15	2	5	7
(*69½)	74	3	7	10	6½	10	13
Unilever	1200	24	58	83	25	48	52
(*1206)	1250	6	36	57	62	80	85
Utd Bisc	360	41	44	50	3½	11	15
(*398½)	390	14	26	35	13	23	28

Series		Calls May	Calls Aug	Calls Nov	Puts May	Puts Aug	Puts Nov
BAA	750	63	75	88	8	22	29
(*795½)	800	31	45	56	27	45	50
BAT Ind	950	40	60	72	32	50	70
(*963½)	1000	15	35	51	67	80	100
BTR	550	57	64	72	4	9	16
(*593½)	600	20	33	42	18	26	37
Br Aero	260	37	52	65	15	24	32
(*280)	280	25	40	53	22	34	43
Br Telcm	420	15	26	30	13½	26	30
(*416½)	460	4	9	15	45	55	58
Cadbury	460	28	40	50	11	19	24
(*474½)	500	10	22	31	35	41	46
Guinness	460	20	37	47	21	25	33
(*466)	500	7	19	30	43	49	55
GEC	300	13	18½	23	10	18	22
(*300)	330	3½	7½	11	31	39	41
Hanson	220	22½	25½	30	2½	6	10
(*236½)	240	9½	13½	18	10	15	18½
LASMO	180	18	25	30	12	18	25
(*185½)	200	8½	16	22	25	30	37
Lucas	140	10	17	21	12	17	22
(*139½)	160	4	9	11	25	29	36
P & O	550	45	52	63	21	33	47
(*584½)	600	16	30	40	51	62	77
Pilkingtn	110	12	16	21	8	13	17
(*113½)	120	7	12	17	14	19	23
Prudential	350	15½	23	30	15	21	27
(*338)	360	5	12	19	36	40	45
RTZ	650	36	55	70	24	33	42
(*653)	700	14	32	45	53	63	71
Scot New	460	24	35	41	13	27	32
(*467)	500	7½	17	24	37	53	57
Tesco	240	17	22	28	10	14	19
(*243)	260	7	13	18	22	25	31
Thames W	500	49	57	58	4	13	18
(*542½)	550	17	24	30	21	39	43
Vodafone	390	25	36	45	16	26	32
(*397½)	420	12	22	33	31	44	49

FT-SE INDEX (*2880)

	2800	2850	2900	2950	3000	3050
Calls						
Mar	89	39	5	1	1	½
Apr	107	76	45	26	12	5
May	130	103	74	51	34	22
Jun	155	122	95	70	53	37
Dec	240	-	190	-	145	-
Puts						
Mar	½	2	20	69	114	166
Apr	22	35	58	83	125	172
May	38	58	76	147	187	226
Jun	57	67	93	115	158	107
Dec	115	-	160	-	210	-

Series		Calls Mar	Calls Jun	Calls Sep	Puts Mar	Puts Jun	Puts Sep
Abby Nat	360	19	32	40	2	11	15
(*374)	390	2	16	25	17	26	33
Amstrad	35	2½	5½	7	1	4	5½
(*36½)	40	1	4	4½	5	7	8
Barclays	390	26	42	52	3	14	24
(*412)	420	4	23	35	13	28	39
Blue Circ	220	4½	15	22	7½	22	28
(*218½)	240	1½	7½	14	26	39	43
Br Gas	280	15	19½	25	1	10	14
(*293)	300	2	9	14	8	22	25
	330	1	2½	5	37	46	47
Dixons	220	10	22	27	4	14	24
(*225)	240	2	12	16	19	27	35
Eurotnnl	460	41	63	80	5	25	38
(*477½)	500	9	40	60	20	45	55
Forte	180	20	24	27	1½	10	13
(*198)	200	4	12	17	7	19	24
Glaxo	600	27	57	80	5½	20	44
(*619)	650	5	36	57	34	55	69
	700	1½	20	38	84	90	102
HSBC	600	16	36	59	7½	40	53
(*607)	650	3	20	35	45	75	85
Hillsdwn	140	20	23	26	1	7½	11
(*158½)	160	4	11	15	7	17	22
Lonrho	80	6	11	14	1½	5½	9
(*84)	90	1	7½	10	5	12	15
Reuter	1350	33	89	125	15	57	83
(*1365)	1400	10	65	99	44	82	109
R-Royce	120	9½	13	20	3	8½	13
(*126)	130	3½	8½	15	8	14	18
Sears	90	9	12	15	1	5	7
(*97½)	100	3	6½	9	4	10	13
Thrn Emi	850	27	55	66	4	22	45
(*870)	900	2½	29	40	35	49	74
TSB	160	12	20	24	1½	9	12
(*170)	180	2	9½	15	12	19	23
Vaal Reefs	35	5½	6½	7½	1½	2½	4
(*$40)	40	2	4½	6½	3	5	6
Wellcome	900	11	47	72	17	50	67
(*886½)	950	2	29	51	60	80	97

Series		Apr	Jul	Oct	Apr	Jul	Oct
Fisons	200	20	29	36	7	21	26
(*208)	220	8½	20	30	18	33	37

Series		May	Aug	Nov	May	Aug	Nov
Eastern Elc	460	32	40	46	11	24	29
(*478½)	500	12	20	28	32	48	53

Series		Mar	Jun	Sep	Mar	Jun	Sep
Natl Pwr	330	7	21	26	5	15	24
(*333)	360	1½	9	14	29	33	42
Scot Pwr	220	25	31	34	1	3½	8½
(*244)	240	6	17	21	3	9½	17

March 18, 1993 Tot: 33315 Calls: 19899 Puts: 13416 FT-SE Calls: 6550 Puts: 6545
*Underlying security price.

COMMODITIES

GNI REPORT: *Wheat and barley have come under pressure from the strength in sterling and the lack of EC grain sales to the CIS.* Yesterday's German rate cut, and the fall in UK unemployment conspired to help the pound and threaten another EC Intervention price cut. If the pound stays above 2.44 DM for the last 10 days in March then the May Intervention price could fall to £151/tonne.

LONDON FOX
COCOA
Mar 695-675 May 779 SLR
May 702-700 Jul 792-789
Jul 713-712 Sep 806 BID
Sep 727-725 Dec 824-821
Dec 746-744
Mar 766 SLR Volume: 3939

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)
Mar 595 BID Nov 880-877
May 873 BID Jan 892 SLR
Jul 852-850 Mar 906 SLR
Sep 867-865 Volume: 2932

RAW SUGAR (FOB)
C Czarnikow
Spot: 236.5 Dec 204.0-02.0
May 244.2-42.2 Mar unq
Aug 249.0-47.0 May 206.0-02.0
Oct 235.0-21.0 Aug unq
Volume: 16

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)
Reuters
Spot: 296.7 Dec 273.3-72.5
May 291.5-91.0 Mar 273.8-72.5
Aug 295.5-95.0 May 276.5-74.0
Oct 274.0-72.7 Aug 281.3-76.0
Volume: 1530

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION
Average fatstock prices at representative markets on March 18

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB:	89.75	119.82	132.52
(+/-)	-2.25	-4.19	-7.33
Eng/Wales:	89.56	119.68	132.14
(+/-)	-2.21	+3.71	-6.70
(%)	+5.9	-40.7	-21.8
Scotland:	76.31	120.75	134.66
(+/-)	-5.96	-5.92	-3.75
(%)	-17.2	-59.2	-50.9

LONDON MEAT FUTURES
Live Pig (kg)
Open Close Open Close
Apr 114.9 114.9 Jun 112.0 112.0
May 114.9 114.9 Volume: 9

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES
WHEAT (close £/t)
Mar 142.15
May 142.40
Jun 144.00
Sep 107.90
Nov 110.20
Volume: 198

BARLEY (close £/t)
Mar 140.00
May 140.15
Sep 106.25
Nov 109.45
Jan 112.15
Volume: 40

HI-PRO SOYA (close £/t)
Apr 147.30
Jun 141.30
Aug 142.30
Oct unq
Dec unq
Volume: 0

POTATO
(£/t) Open Close
Apr 42.0 41.0
May 45.0 45.0
Apr unq unq
Volume: 43

RUBBER
No 1 RSS Cif (p/kg)
Apr n/a

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm): *Oil prices showed some gains on the back of technical buy signals.*

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)
Brent Physical 18.65 +0.10
Brent 15 day (Apr) 18.75 +0.10
Brent 15 day (May) 18.85 +0.10
W Texas Intermediate (Apr) 20.25 +0.10
W Texas Intermediate (May) 20.40 +0.10

PRODUCTS ($/MT)
Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)
Premium Gas .15 Bid: 198 (+2) Offer: 200 (+2)
Gasoil EEC 179 (+2) 180 (+2)
Non EEC 1H Apr 178 (+2) 179 (+2)
Non EEC 1H May 175 (+1) 176 (+1)
3.5 Fuel Oil 75 (+1) 76 (+1)
Naphtha 172 (+1) 174 (+1)

IPE FUTURES
GNI Ltd
GAS OIL
Apr 175.00-75.25 Jul 173.00-73.25
May 173.00-73.25 Aug 175.00-75.25
Jun 172.25-72.50 Sep 177.00-77.25
Vol: 13805

BRENT (6.00pm)
May 18.81-18.83 Aug 18.85 BID
Jun 18.87-18.88 Sep unq
Jul 18.84-18.87 Vol: 17445

UNLEADED GASOLINE
Apr 199.00-200.0 Jul 204.00-06.50
May 200.00-02.00 Aug 210.00 SLR
Jun 201.00-02.00 Vol: 219

BIFFEX
GNI Ltd ($10/pt)
Mar 93 High: 1466 Low: 1459 Close: 1466
Apr 93 1438 1430 1438
May 93 1400 1399 1399
Jul 93 — — 1250
Vol: 96 lots. Open int'st: 2928 Index 1466 +7

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE Rudolf Wolff
(Official) (Volume prev day)

	Cash	3mth	Vol
Copper Gde A (£/tonne)	1494.5-1495.0	1520.0-1520.5	769625
Lead (£/tonne)	271.00-271.50	281.25-281.50	111275
Zinc Spec Hi Gde (£/tonne)	995.0-996.0	1014.0-1015.0	306700
Tin (£/tonne)	5600.0-5605.0	5658.0-5662.0	12155
Aluminium Hi Gde (£/tonne)	1146.0-1146.5	1168.5-1169.0	723225
Nickel (£/tonne)	5900.0-5905.0	5970.0-5972.0	29268

INFOTECH

New software is inspiring Hollywood scriptwriters to write films by computer. **Alan Jabez** delves into the secret


CLIVE COOTE

Great expectations: Eric Idle in a scene from his new film *Splitting Heirs*, conceived with the help of a computer program

Come on, Eric. . . tell us whodunit?

And the winner of this year's Oscar for best screenplay is... At this point in the film awards, to be made later this month, a proud scriptwriter will step forward to receive his or her famous gold statue — but for how much longer? Will the prizewinners of the future be computers?

An increasing number of top scriptwriters are using dedicated computer programs to assist their creative thoughts; and one day it may be more appropriate for the software to receive the award than the writer. Or at least to share the accolades.

In Hollywood, where the prize for success is considerable fame and fortune, there are few scriptwriters who simply sit alone at a typewriter, the waste-basket full of failed first-drafts, waiting for that moment of inspiration. Instead, new software packages are helping to reduce the agonising frustration of writers having to write at all.

A program called *Collaborator*, for example, constantly asks writers questions about how their story is developing. The program, which is both IBM and *Macintosh* compatible, sells for less than £200.

It begins by asking the writer a battery of questions, such as: "Who is the expected audience?"; "Can you sum up the start, middle and end of the film?"; "What time period is the film set in?"; "Where is it set?" and "Why is this important?"

As the writer perseveres in telling the story, the software continues to ask questions about the characters and structure: "Why has this character been chosen?" and "What is their purpose?"

One fan of the program is the British comedy writer, Eric Idle, who used it while writing his latest film, *Splitting Heirs*, which opens in Britain next month. He says it was particularly helpful around the fourth and fifth draft, once he had established the story and outline.

"The software keeps your thoughts focused on the film and asks questions about the structure which you may not have thought of," he says. "It is a useful way of checking the structure of a film, once the writing has been completed."

Although there are a number of software packages which format scripts into the traditional filming style, very few provide assistance in structuring the film in the way that *Collaborator* does, irrespective of whether the film is a comedy or a thriller.

According to Francis Feighan, the program's creator and a former Hollywood film reviewer and television soap opera writer, the software does not suggest ideas, lines or characters. What it does, he says, is provide the writer with an "intelligent partner" who keeps asking pertinent questions about the writer's thoughts.

Mr Feighan says the program follows Aristotle's time-honoured method of drama, which focuses on the importance of having a clear start, middle and end to every story.

And while Aristotle's ideas form the basis of *Collaborator's* questions, many of the remainder come from Lajos Egri's book, *The Art of Dramatic Writing*, a frequently referred to publication in scriptwriting classes.

Mr Feighan rejects the argument that the software deludes poor or inexperienced writers into believing they can produce award-winning scripts. "The program does not give a screenwriter talent", he says, "it just helps to make the writing and structuring process a little easier."

> 'The software asks questions about the film which you may not have thought of'

Another of *Collaborator's* developers was Louis Garfinkle, a Hollywood veteran of 35 years and the Oscar-nominated writer of the film, *The Deerhunter*, who now uses the program on all his scripts.

He argues that many writers have good story ideas, but have problems fitting them into the traditional storytelling mode, something which *Collaborator* helps to achieve. And he adamantly rejects the criticism that if every screenwriter used the program, all screenplays would be exactly the same or at least broadly similar.

It is not just screenwriters who are using computer software to help improve their work. The increasing number of creative writing software packages now available, has moved the Society of Authors to launch a new magazine, *The Electronic Author*, due out in the summer.

Editor Jane Dorner says that she has already reviewed about 50 software programs for writers, many with fancy names such as *Babble*, *Plots Unlimited* and *Brainstorm*.

She says that while most top British writers still do not use any software, the programs are certainly becoming more popular. Apart from the more conventional packages, which check the spelling of words, there are other programs available which do everything from churning out tried and tested television plots, to searching for appropriate rhyming word endings to different poetry styles.

Ms Dorner says some programs are clearly written by computer buffs and not writers trying to help other writers. However, one program she regards as extremely useful is the CD-ROM version of the *Oxford English Dictionary*. "Because of the power of computing, it can find specific words or the origins of quotes quicker than a person who has to search through many individual books," she says.

But Ms Dorner is concerned at the growth of computer programs, especially those marketed as a means of helping inexperienced writers achieve better results. She says: "It is important the programs do not deaden the creative process or give inexperienced writers a false sense of authority."

One British software program, *Style Writer*, claims to cut at least 30 per cent of needless words from most standard documents. It is proving very popular at the civil service.

Scribble a note to the pen pal

The definition of a personal communicator is likely to become a vexed question. Particularly when computer and consumer electronic companies realise that personal electronic notebooks which can recognise handwriting could be a real seller.

Yesterday Amstrad took a swipe at personal communicators being planned by company's such as AT & T and Apple by announcing the Pen Pad, its version of what it calls a "personal digital assistant" (PDA).

"Never has a new product category been so hyped by major world computer suppliers, without any evidence that their equipment is actually nearing production," says Alan Sugar, the chairman of Amstrad.

In May Amstrad will start selling the £300 Pen Pad, a sort of electronic version of the Filofax, about the size of a personal stereo.

It is aimed firmly at the traditional loose leaf — and more recently electronic — organiser markets.

What distinguishes it from most electronic organisers is that it accepts input only from an electronic pen. Along the side and top of the liquid crystal display screen are a number of symbols, each depicting a separate function.

By pointing the pen at the symbols, users can select and move through functions such as an electronic diary, address and telephone book. Alternatively they can create pages in a scribble area stored as handwritten notes, sketches or diagrams.

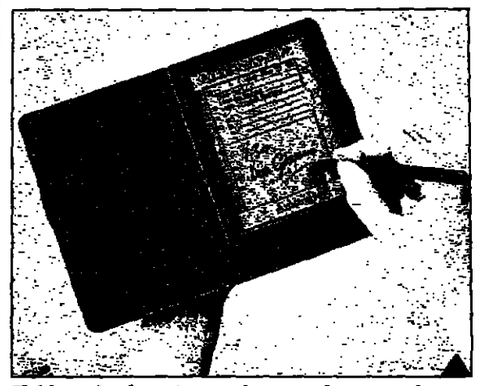
What is novel about the Pen Pad, Amstrad says, is that writing can be transferred into computer text. Users program the machine to recognise their writing when thay first use it.

The scribble area stores what is written or drawn as an image rather than computer text file. Because this takes more memory, only 50 electronic pages can be stored, although Amstrad says that with the addition of a £150 memory card this can be increased to 500.

Last week Apple Computer and and a subsidiary of the German technology conglomerate Siemens said they would join forces to produce hand-held computers that can transmit data over telephone lines.

The first result will be Note Phone, to be demonstrated at next week's Cebit trade fair in Hanover. It will combine Apple's "Newton" personal computing technology with Siemens' telephone knowledge. The Newton, due to go on sale this summer, recognises written words, can store them and transmit data over phone lines.

MATTHEW MAY



Taking a lead: an Amstrad personal communicator

When operations on TV become the real thing

In the future, surgeons might perform life-saving work by remote control, miles from the theatre

Progress in virtual reality could enable specialists surgeons to operate on patients from remote locations, claim the creators of a novel system for tracking surgical instruments inside the human body.

As the technology develops, teams of experts could be "teleported" to operating theatres around the world to guide surgeons and confer on delicate operations.

An early version of the system, which relays three-dimensional images of the human intestine to physicians during the course of an operation, has just completed successful clinical trials at Ipswich hospital in Suffolk. Researchers are claiming a world first for the system.

Virtual reality is usually associated with the computer games industry; it is about flying through "virtual" cities, interplanetary exploration, or, in its more esoteric guises, creating the ultimate sexual experience.

All of this is achieved by placing the user in a computer-generated graphical world. Wraparound virtual reality helmets and sensory body suits are used to achieve a heightened sensation of physical displacement.

"We are now beginning to see a turnaround, from the spin-offs of scientific and technological research filtering down to the consumer market, to a situation where the consumer goods industry is driving technology," says Peter Cochrane, the head of systems research at British Telecom's laboratories, at Martlesham Heath near Ipswich. He confesses to looking to computer games giants such as *Sega* for innovations which can be put to practical commercial use in industry.

Mr Cochrane and his team, in collaboration with Sheffield University and consultants at Ipswich Hospital, are behind the "telemedicine" initiative.

The system developed at Ipswich uses a magnetic field to locate the position of an endoscope as it travels through the patient's abdomen. The ultimate goal, Mr Cochrane says, is to place surgeons "inside" the human body and "sit" medical experts on the shoulders of doctors and students as they perform tricky operations.



The trials at Ipswich Hospital developed from an idea by consultant physician, Dr Duncan Bell. He was looking for a system which would improve the technically demanding skill of colonoscopy — a procedure in which an endoscope is guided around the looms of the lower intestines.

> Experts could 'sit' in as doctors operate

Conventional practice entails the use of X-rays to determine the path of the endoscope as it is manoeuvred through the five feet of the lower bowel.

However, it is a notoriously difficult skill to master: Dr Bell cites research which indicates that a 90 per cent success rate is achieved only by experienced surgeons after about 200 examinations.

The procedure is so difficult that it is only conducted on a regular basis by experts. As a result, there are no routine screening programmes for colon cancer, which kills an average of 20,000 people a year in Britain.

The prototype developed by John Bladen and Professor Alan Anderson, of Sheffield University, offers a significant improvement over X-ray visualisation. Dr Bell says. The system works by setting up a low-frequency magnetic field around the patient. Software running on an IBM 486 PC then converts the electrical impulses from a sensor placed on the tip of the endoscope into a 3-D image which is displayed on a television screen or on an eye-piece worn by the surgeon.

"Grey-scale" colour coding conveys a sense of depth to the endoscopist; the 3-D image makes it easier to ascertain the relative position of loops in the abdomen and formulate a strategy for removal. The medical hazards of overexposure to X-rays are eradicated and surgeons do not need to wear protective clothing. Indeed, the system allows such examinations to be undertaken in complete safety at the patient's own bed on the ward.

Dr Bell describes the research as a "major advance". He believes the improvement in visualisation will be of great benefit in teaching colonoscopy not just to doctors, but nurses also, as well as improving the technique of experienced surgeons.

At £10,000 a time, the kit is a fraction of the £100,000 cost of rigging up an endoscopic unit. Further applications of the system could be in bronchoscopy, gastroscopy and nose and throat examinations.

But BT is already talking about combining the system with other technologies in ways which would transform the medical establishment. The next simple step would be to have the surgeon don an audio-visual headset. The headset, already built, consists of a microphone, earphones, video camera, and a "private eye" display screen. Remote surgeons could then access the 3-D image generated by the magnetic field and watch the operation as it is performed, communicating with the operator via the earphones and microphone.

"The applications are endlessly fascinating," Mr Cochrane says. Hundreds of students could sit on the shoulders of the world's greatest surgeons as they performed delicate operations. Cordless headsets utilising radio or optical links could be used to connect a doctor in a casualty unit to ambulance personnel at the scene of an accident.

Take it a step further and the work could be combined with research into the use of robots for medical screening and hip, eye and brain operations, Mr Cochrane says.

At the cutting edge of virtual reality, the remote surgeon could slip on special sensory gloves and "feel" the operation as it progresses.

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The revival of the contractor exhibition is encouraging news for those wanting to become freelance specialists. **David Guest** reports

Get yourself an agent

JOHN MANNING



Converted: Mike Kennedy turned freelance after visiting one of the first recruitment shows

The Contractor Show, the freelance computer specialist's equivalent of a talent contest, opens next week. This is the exhibition at which both exhibitors and visitors can be judges. The exhibitors, mainly recruitment agencies, try to attract the best contractors to "offer" clients, while visiting specialists will choose the agencies with which they want to be associated.

The show has not been held since 1990 because the freelance market has slumped. After the first show, in autumn 1988, three events a year were held, two in London and one in Manchester. Then the employment market fell away. "Nineteen-ninety-one was dreadful for the industry," says Christina Symons, Recruitment Roadshow's events organiser. "It was unrealistic to put on a show when big companies were cutting staff."

Ms Symons says that the return of the show is a sign of an improvement in the prospects for freelances. There is, however, an element of experimentation about the show. It will not be as big as earlier ones and there are no plans yet to resume regional coverage.

Mike Cullen, the chairman of the Independent Computer Contractors section of the British Computer Society, is even more cautious. He would not advise computer professionals to take the plunge into contracting. "They would be well advised to wait," he says. "In a year or two, when everyone is happier, demand will grow again." Mr Cullen believes that the show's benefit can be a two-way process. "Maybe it helps the agencies to understand the market," he adds.

> 'As a contractor you can become de-skilled very quickly'

One specialist who was influenced by one of the shows is Mike Kennedy. He turned freelance after going to an early show. "I'd been thinking about it for a while," he says. "I was in permanent employment, but I was not particularly happy. Although I was in a junior position, I knew that with my technical skills I could earn more as a contractor. I went to the show to find out more about it, not with the express idea of going contract. I just popped along during a lunch break." One of the cards he filled in, with Elan Computing, a recruitment agency, led to his first contract.

But Mr Kennedy will not be attending next week's show. "I do not consider attendance vital, but I would recommend it for first-time contractors."

For others, face-to-face contact is an important part of such a show. In its prime, the London events attracted between 3,500 and 4,000 visitors over two days, compared with an estimated total of 15,000 freelancers in Britain.

There were two distinct groups of attenders — experienced contractors often meeting telephone contacts among the agencies and other professional companies for the first time, and first-time freelances. Both groups used the shows to check which agencies work with which companies.

Mr Kennedy says: "I sent my details to lots of agencies — you tend to go for many rather than few. Companies that hire contractors often have preferred lists of recruitment agents and you want to be on all their books."

Charles Stokes, the chairman of the Independent National Contractors Association, agrees. "You have to spread yourself," he says. "When you are on a contract you do not have the time to market yourself, and the agencies do that for you. Yes, it is expensive, and we all have an occasional moan about it, but it makes the market work."

Mr Cullen says: "In the halcyon days of 1989, the market was like a cattle sale. We had stands at the show, and we had people who had just finished their courses coming up to us and thrusting their CVs at us. The get-rich-quick cowboys have been shaken out, and now there is a greater proportion of people who genuinely want to make it their career."

The opportunity to get rich relatively quickly is still there. Ms Symons suggests that a contract analyst-programmer with the right experience might earn £10,000 a year more as a contractor. The skills now in demand fall in the open systems and relational-database areas.

Adrian Derx, a director of Elan, says: "In Unix and Sybase, the market is strong, although not in VMS and Cobol. It is actually stronger in IBM mainframes now than a year ago."

During the show, there will be a conference on migrating to open systems. "Technology moves on and as a contractor you can become de-skilled very quickly," Mr Kennedy says.

"You have to think about what will enable you to continue working as a freelance."

● The Contractor Show will take place at the New Connaught Rooms, Great Queen Street, London WC2, next Friday and Saturday. Further information: 0344 23293.

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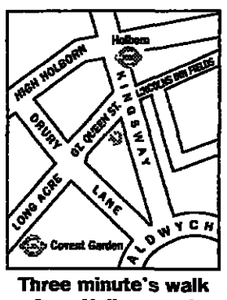
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After the mouse, enter the talking moose

Talking to dictation phones is embarrassing enough. Now the PC is acquiring some arresting lines. **Kim Wilson** listens in

Are you embarrassed when you speak to a dictation machine or answerphone? Many people are. But technology has something worse in store.

It will soon be *de rigueur* to talk to your computer. And the machine may answer back. The listening-talking computer is already on sale. Sound input is a feature that has been offered on some computers for several years, but with the recent development of a package by Microsoft, the giant of the personal computer software world, sound is likely to move into the mainstream of personal computing.

Microsoft's Windows sound system adds some remarkable capabilities to any PC that can use the popular Windows 3.1 software. The package includes software, sound circuitry on an add-in "card", a microphone for speaking to a computer and headphones for hearing what it has to say.

An important boost for the system's acceptability has come from the decision by Compaq, the PC maker, to offer sound as a standard feature on one of its office computers.

Microsoft's Mark Edwards, who is responsible for marketing Windows, claims: "In a few years, every PC will come with sound."

Once any initial embarrassment has been overcome, a PC user can use the microphone to add spoken comments to any files that are being sent over the office computer network or to leave spoken messages for colleagues. Incoming messages can be heard through the headphones or over a loudspeaker.

However, the "voice annotation" facility is more than just a high-tech answerphone, according to Andrew Lees, product marketing manager of Microsoft. "It is so easy to misunderstand the written word," he says. "With sound, you can add tone, and convey shades of meaning." However, it becomes worthwhile sending spoken messages only if enough potential recipients are linked to the computer network. A few years ago, most PCs were solitary devices, but that has changed, and most large organisations now have extensive computer networks that link tens, hundreds and even thousands of workers.

> 'A grotesque creature pops up on screen to utter wisecracks and drolleries'

"Research showed us that sound was a high priority among users," Mr Lees says. "Users wanted greater speed, screen quality, and sound — in that order — to increase their productivity."

The sound system can also read numbers aloud from a spreadsheet — a facility, Microsoft argues, that is destined to become an invaluable data-entry tool.

"People who type in lots of numbers get number-drunk," Mr Lees says. "They have to ask colleagues to help them verify what they have typed. The new system can read the numbers back so the user can check them."

Both the voice-annotation and proof-reading features work only with programs that have been specially rewritten to use sound. Not very many are available yet, but within a year or two, most popular business programs could support sound.

Sound input has been provided as standard on the Apple Macintosh, the main rival to the IBM-compatible personal computer, for the last two years, and several programs take advantage of it.

Most word processors and spreadsheets, for example, have a voice-annotation command, although speech synthesis is not normally available. There is one remarkable exception: the Moose, one of the most bizarre computer programs ever written. In an early and apparently unsuccessful experiment, Apple's programmers developed a program called Macintalk, which could turn text into synthesised speech.

It was a hilarious failure because, although individual syllables sounded all right, the program could not assemble the syllables into anything that sounded recognisably human.

But, strangely, Macintalk's strangled vowels and dropped aspirations seem acceptable when they are made to come from the lips of a cartoon animal.

Enter the Talking Moose, a grotesque creature which pops up on screen at random intervals to utter wisecracks and drolleries. Ironically, the Moose has sold in huge numbers and is at present the only popular, non-specialist computer program to use speech synthesis. The new sound system is more technically advanced than the Macintosh version, although it will work only on computers that are using Windows. Microsoft's engineers have wisely limited speech synthesis to the pronunciation of numbers.

The most exciting but probably least useful facility is Voice Pilot, a voice-recognition program that enables users to control their PCs with spoken commands. It will understand phrases such as "open file" or "print" and act on them, but it does not work as a voice-operated typewriter. Voice Pilot can be "trained" to recognise a user's voice because the results of mis-hearing a command could be disastrous.

Mr Edwards admits that Microsoft is making the program available primarily to demonstrate some of the possibilities of sound on PCs and to test the market.

Most current PCs are too underpowered for a fully effective voice-control system. "Future versions of PCs will have intelligence so that they will know what you mean and will not make mistakes," Mr Edwards says.

Although it is being promoted as a business-oriented product, the system also forms an important part of Microsoft's plan for developing the PC. It is one ingredient of a new standard, known as MPC, which will bring together sound and video on conventional PCs and is aimed at business, education and leisure. Mr Edwards adds: "Sales of sound systems are increasing. The next stage will be PCs with video facilities."

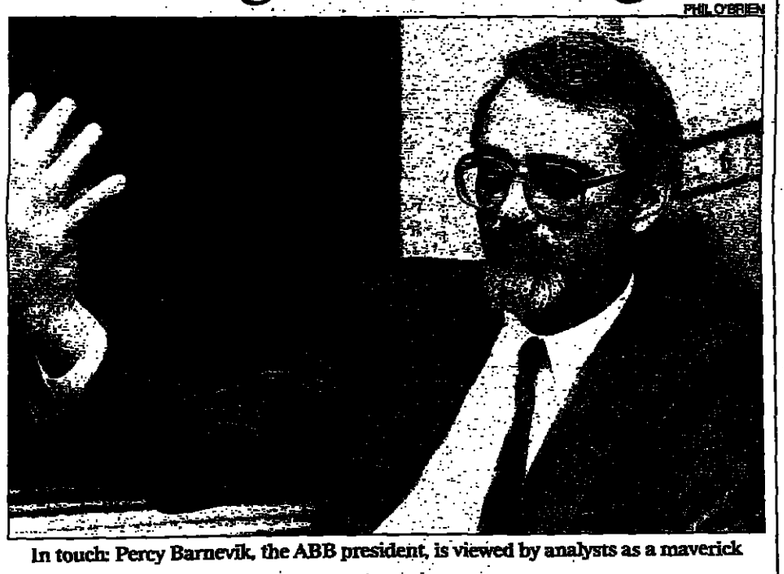
JULIAN HERBERT



Talkback program: Andrew Lees, Microsoft's product marketing manager, with microphone attached to computer and headphones

Shrinking the world to a global village

PHIL O'BRIEN



In touch: Percy Barnevik, the ABB president, is viewed by analysts as a maverick

Hi-tech changes are outstripping the resources of all but the largest firms

The increasing speed and diminishing cost of telecommunications and data processing are continuing to shrink the globe while both business and government are looking at how best to take advantage of it.

Multinational companies, such as Sony, Philips, Matsushita, Thomson and ICL, are being transformed into global companies by the rapid changes in technology.

While companies are establishing futuristic manufacturing and service operations in growing markets, usually emerging nations, these corporate giants are overlapping national frontiers and are affecting the major regions of the world's economies.

But while there has been a liberating impact of technology, the high technology revolution can also be a tyrant because it has accelerated the pace of change, says Dr Michael Hodges, senior lecturer in the department of international relations at the London School of Economics. Along with Louis Turner, he is author of the recently published, *Global Shakeout — World Market Competition*.

"Technology is changing faster and faster and is becoming more, not less, expensive to develop — outstripping the resources of all but the largest companies," he says. "This has raised the stakes for any company which sees itself as a technological leader. To stay in the race, firms are increasingly forced to treat the world as a single unit."

Big Macs and Apple Macs are not merely products of super-competition, he argues, but are symbols of how companies and national economies are competing between continents with increasing ease, and increasing peril to those firms that cannot find niches in the global economy.

Mr Turner says: "In telecommunications, the cost of developing a new range of telephone network exchange equipment is at least $1 billion which is more than any single European country's telecoms market can sustain.

Keeping pace with Big Macs and Apple Macs

"For semi-conductors, the industry is looking at a future where each new factory will cost between $1.5 billion and $2 billion and by 2000 it is probable that only ten such plants will be needed to supply world requirements."

One company embracing technology is Asea Brown Boveri, ABB, the giant Swiss-Swedish builder of transportation and electric generation systems.

Percy Barnevik, the president and chief executive of ABB, is viewed by industry analysts as a maverick who is moving more aggressively than any one else in Europe, to create an enterprise which combines global scale and world-class technology, but keeps in touch with local markets.

"I have no illusions about how hard it is to communicate clearly and quickly to tens of thousands of people around the world. ABB has about 15,000 middle managers prowling around markets all over the world," he says.

Apart from conducting all its high-level discussions in English, ABB uses a range of two-party and multi-party video conferences, personal pagers, electronic and voice mail to keep employees in contact.

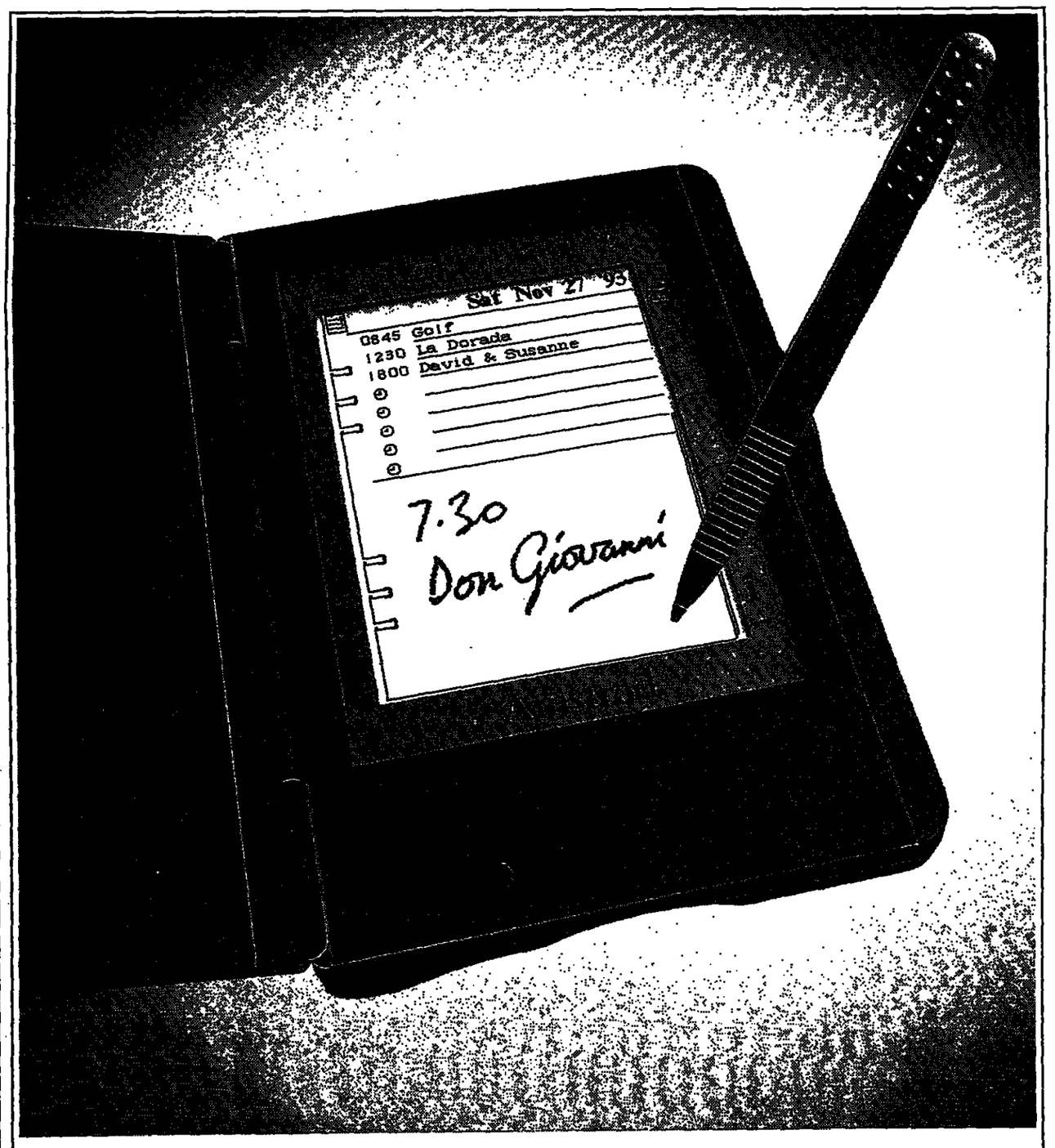
Increasingly, companies such as ABB are becoming dependent on transnational communications to support them. It has been estimated that by 1991, the top 1,000 multinational corporations accounted for 25 per cent of all telecommunications, especially computer communications, service usage, and 80 per cent of international services.

In view of these figures, it is hardly surprising that the world's big telecommunications companies are also adopting the word global as part of their corporate language.

Dr Hodges says that telecommunications deregulation, in particular, has woken some once sleepy giants.

"The giant telecoms players such as AT & T, BT and NTT are being forced to think globally because of the massive development needs of their particular industry and the potential erosion of their domestic market share," he says.

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Law Report March 19 1993 House of Lords

Children and incapacitated adults cannot apply to council for housing

Regina v Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council, Ex parte G
Regina v Bexley London Borough Council, Ex parte B
Regina v Tower Hamlets London Borough Council, Ex parte Ferdous Begum

Before Lord Griffiths, Lord Bridge of Harwich, Lord Ackner, Lord Slynn of Hadley and Lord Woolf
[Speeches March 18]

Dependent children were not among those classified in section 59(1) of the Housing Act 1985 as in priority need.

They were dependent on their parents and those looking after them to decide where they were to live. The offer of accommodation under the Act could sensibly be made only to those in charge of them.

Under the Act no duty was owed to persons so disabled that they had neither the capacity to make an application themselves nor to authorise an agent to make it for them. The Act was primarily concerned with the provision of bricks and mortar and not with care and attention for the gravely disabled which was provided for in other legislation.

The House of Lords so held in dismissing two appeals by G and B, both minors, from the dismissal by the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Ralph Gibson, Lord Justice Nolan and Lord Justice Scott) (*The Times* August 26, 1992) of their appeal from the dismissal by Mr Justice Henry (*The Times* April 20, 1992) of their applications for judicial review of (i) the refusal by the Metropolitan Borough of Oldham to entertain an application by G for housing on the basis that it was a transparent device to get around the provisions of the 1985 Act and (ii) the decision of the London Borough of Bexley that the council had no obligation to rehouse B.

Their Lordships, Lord Slynn dissenting, allowed an appeal by the London Borough of Tower Hamlets from a decision of the Court of Appeal (Lord Donaldson of Lymington, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Butler-Sloss and Lord Justice Staughton) (*The Times* August 26, 1992; [1993] 2 WLR 9) allowing an appeal by Ferdous Begum from Mr Justice Rose (*The Times* December 12, 1991) who had dismissed her application for judicial review of Tower Hamlets' decision that she, by reason of her mental condition, had not made an application for housing under the 1985 Act.

G's mother had applied to the local housing authority, Oldham, for accommodation under Part III of the 1985 Act. Oldham decided that she was homeless, in priority need but that she was homeless intentionally because she had failed to pay her rent. Thereafter an application was made on behalf of G by the mother on the ground that he was in priority need under section 59 as he was vulnerable for special reason within the section. On April 4, 1991 Oldham refused to consider the application on the ground that it was a device. On June 29, Mr Justice Webster granted the applicant leave to move for judicial review of that decision.

On an application by B's parents, who were political refugees from Ghana, for accommodation as homeless persons, Bexley had decided that they were in priority need but that they were intentionally homeless as their loss of accommodation was caused by a deliberate omission to make repayments of the mortgage on their property. B, through his father, applied for accommodation as a homeless person for the accommodation for the same family as in the parents' application. Bexley replied that that application was not validly made and that B was not considered to have priority need for accommodation. On October 24, 1991 Mr Justice Webster granted B leave for judicial review of that decision.

By their decision dated August 30, 1991 Tower Hamlets had decided that Ferdous Begum, who had applied for accommodation to them under Part III of the 1985 Act, had not made an application for such accommodation and that they were under no obligation to make enquiries into her homelessness under section 62 of the Act. On September 2, Mr Justice Popplewell granted her leave to move for judicial review of that decision.

Mr Andrew Arden, QC and Mr George Warr for G; Mr Patrick Elias, QC and Mr David Watkinson for B; Mr James Goudie, QC and Miss Brenda Morris for Bexley; Mr Timothy Straker for Oldham; Mr Ashley Underwood and Miss Lisa Giovanetti for Tower Hamlets; Mr Derek Wood, QC, Mr David Watkinson and Mr Leslie Thomas for Ferdous Begum.

LORD GRIFFITHS said that the three appeals were heard together because they all concerned the nature of the duties owed by local housing authorities to homeless persons under Part III of the 1985 Act which re-enacted the provisions contained in the Housing (Homeless Persons) Act 1977.

It was important to understand the nature of the duty imposed on local housing authorities by Parliament. It was not a duty take the homeless off the streets and to place them physically in accommodation.

The duty was to give them and their families the first priority in the housing queue. The duty was expressed in section 65(2) as a duty to "secure that accommodation becomes available for his occupation". It was a duty to offer a homeless person who applied to them suitable permanent accommodation to house him and his family: section 75.

The persons to whom that duty was owed were those who were homeless and in priority need and who had not disqualified themselves by becoming homeless intentionally: section 59(1).

Dependent children were not among those classified as in priority need. They depended on their parents or those looking after them to decide where they were to live and the offer of accommodation could only sensibly be made to those in charge of them.

There was no definition of a dependent child in the Act but the *Homelessness Code of Guidance for Local Authorities (3rd edition (1991))*, to which local authorities had to have regard for guidance (see section 71), suggested in paragraph 6.3 that authorities should normally include as dependent all children under 16 and all children aged 16 to 18 who were in, or about to begin, full-time education or training or who for other reason were unable to support themselves and who lived at home. That seemed sensible guidance and likely to result in families being housed together until the children were reasonably mature.

If a family had lost its right to priority treatment through intentional homelessness, the parent could not achieve the same result through the back door by an application in the name of a dependent child.

If he could, it would mean that the disqualification for intentional homelessness had no application to families with dependent children. If that had been the intention of Parliament it would surely have said so.

The first question to be considered in the appeal by Ferdous Begum was whether any duty was owed under the 1985 Act to persons so disabled that they had neither the capacity to make an application themselves nor to authorise an agent to make it on their behalf.

As Lord Justice Purchas had pointed out in *R v Tower Hamlets London Borough Council, Ex parte Monaf* ((1988) 86 LGR 709, 732) the Act was primarily to do with the provision of bricks and mortar and not with care and attention for the gravely disabled which was provided for in other legislation.

Many vulnerable people were cared for in the community by their relatives or other good-hearted people with whom they lived. If such a carer should have the misfortune to become homeless then section 59(1)(c) gave him the status of priority need, and, provided his homelessness was not intentional, he would qualify for an offer of accommodation which would enable him to continue to look after the vulnerable person. But there was no purpose in making an offer of accommodation to a person so disabled that he was unable to comprehend or evaluate the offer.

It was implicit in the provisions of the Act that the duty to make an offer was owed only to those who had the capacity to understand and respond to such an offer. If a person was so disabled that he could not do that, he was not left destitute but was protected by the National Assistance Act 1948 and other legislation.

At the hearing before the Court of Appeal, further evidence of the mental capacity of Ferdous Begum was admitted. The authority wished to evaluate that evidence and had undertaken to reconsider their decision.

If they were to decide that she did lack capacity to make an application, the question would arise whether that decision was one which Parliament had entrusted to the authority and so could only be reviewed on the grounds in *Associated Provincial Picture Houses Ltd v Wednesbury Corporation* ([1948] 1 KB 223) or whether it was to be regarded as a question of precedent fact going to the jurisdiction and so to be decided by the court.

LORD SLYNN agreed with Lord Griffiths on the dismissal of the first two appeals but dissenting on the third, said that a person who was vulnerable as a result of old age, mental illness or handicap or physical disability or other special reasons, unlike a dependent child, had a priority need for accommodation in his or her own right: section 59(1)(c).

By section 62(1), if a person applied to a local housing authority for accommodation or for assistance in obtaining accommodation, the authority must first ask if he was homeless or threatened with homelessness.

If they were satisfied that he was, they had then to ask if (a) he had a priority need and (b) whether he was homeless intentionally.

It was not right to define the phrase "a person" who "applies to a local housing authority for accommodation" as meaning a person who had a priority need and who was capable both of being offered and accepting accommodation if he established that he was homeless and had a priority need. That was putting the cart before the horse.

Any person could be an applicant. The local authority must then consider, step by step, the three matters referred to in section 62 of the Act.

Lord Bridge, Lord Ackner and Lord Woolf agreed with Lord Griffiths.

Solicitors: Moon Beever, Norton & Co, Tottenham; Mr L. J. Birch, Bexleyheath; Sharpe Pritchard for Mr David Shipp, Oldham; Mr J. E. Marlowe, Tower Hamlet; Hereward & Foster, Canning Town.

Power to order treatment for child

In re O (a Minor) (Medical Treatment)

Before Mr Justice Johnson
[Reasons March 15]

The inherent jurisdiction of the High Court was the most appropriate legal framework within which to consider a contested issue relating to emergency medical treatment for a child.

Mr Justice Johnson so held in a reserved judgment in the Family Division, giving reasons for ordering in Birmingham on January 27, 1993 that a child, O, be given a blood transfusion, despite the objections of her parents, who were Jehovah's Witnesses. The reasons, given in chambers, are reported with leave of the judge.

Mr Andrew McFarlane for the local authority; Mr Richard Daniel for the parents; Mr Alastair Warnock for the guardian *ad litem*.

MR JUSTICE JOHNSON said that the family proceedings court had made an emergency protection order, without formal notice having been given to the parents, on the ground that the child was suffering or was likely to suffer significant harm because the parents were withholding their permission to give urgent medical treatment and unless that treatment was received the child might die.

The local authority had then applied to the family proceedings court for a care order on the basis that there was an urgent and continuing need for medical treatment to which the parents were refusing to give their consent.

The justices' clerk had transferred the application for hearing in the High Court.

His Lordship had been left in no doubt that his duty to O required him to give directions that would ensure that whenever medical need arose she would receive the transfusion of blood or blood products that medical advice dictated.

However, his Lordship had been pressed to express a view about the most appropriate legal framework for such decisions. Various possibilities had been canvassed and there had been unanimity between counsel in rejecting all but one.

Interim care order

Counsel had submitted that it was wholly inappropriate for the court to make even an interim care order where the child's parents were caring, committed and capable and only that one issue arose for decision, albeit one of the gravest significance. Reflecting on the statutory provisions, and in particular section 33 of the Children Act 1989, his Lordship accepted that submission.

Emergency protection order

His Lordship referred to the statutory exclusion of any right of appeal by parents or even of a right to apply for discharge within 72 hours of the making of the order. Those prohibitions bore particularly unfairly where the order was the subject of an *ex parte* application.

Moreover, in factual circumstances such as the present, it seemed difficult to bring the case within any of the three situations envisaged by section 44(1) of the 1989 Act. Again his Lordship accepted counsels' submission that an emergency protection order was inappropriate.

A specific issue order

The use of the words "issue" and "determining" in section 8 of the Act suggested the existence of representations from two sides and a determination of the matter between those two sides.

Whether, as with an emergency protection order, a specific issue order could be made *ex parte* was a matter that, it seemed, had yet to be determined. However, his Lordship accepted counsels' submission that an "issue" could not be effectively "determined" on an *ex parte* application.

Inherent jurisdiction

Counsel had urged that invoking the inherent jurisdiction of the High Court under section 100 of the 1989 Act was the most appropriate legal framework within which to consider such questions.

What then was the result which could be achieved by the exercise of the inherent jurisdiction but which could not be achieved under the 1989 Act?

The ruling would have the authority of the High Court to the exclusion of the views of parents, social workers or others.

Even where a local authority had obtained parental responsibility and might act alone and independently of the parents in exercising that responsibility, from the doctors' point of view as distinct from the lawyers' point of view, there might perhaps be a continuing doubt about the ethics of acting in reliance on the consent of only one of, say, three persons who held parental responsibility and in opposition to the wishes of the other two.

Whatever the circumstances, efforts should be made to achieve an *inter partes* hearing, however unusual the particular arrangements might need to be.

If, however, an *inter partes* hearing was not possible then it was his Lordship's view that the gravity of those applications was such that they should be dealt with by a judge of the Family Division.

Whenever there were contested issues about emergency medical treatment then the judicial system was overriding the views of parents who, almost invariably, held those view sincerely and because of a commitment to their belief, which justified respect from all those concerned.

In many of those cases the outcome might seem inevitable but that was never truly so, particularly as medical science now developed with such remarkable speed.

Moreover, when the state, in the form here of the legal system, was asked to override the views of parents such as those in the present case, then the system should ensure that as far as judicial ingenuity could ensure, justice was seen, and felt to be done.

If nothing more, it was because of the gravity, every bit as much as the difficulty and sometimes complexity of the issues, that the parents were entitled to look for a decision to the High Court of Justice.

Solicitors: Mr Colin Cheesman, Chester; Robert Davies & Co, Warrington; Bell Lamb & Joynson, Runcorn.

Fine on company and director was wrong

McMillan Graham Printers Ltd and Others v RR (UK) Ltd and Others

Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Stuart-Smith and Lord Justice Waite
[Judgment March 11]

A fine imposed jointly and severally on a company and one of its directors and the imposition of a sentence of imprisonment in default of payment against the director was wrong in principle and should not be made by a court.

A judge considering breaches of undertakings given to the court by more than one defendant should look at each individually in determining the appropriate penalty to be imposed.

The Court of Appeal so held in allowing appeals by the defendants, RR (UK) Ltd and Stephen Reed, from orders by Mr Justice Morritt on February 5, 1993 at Manchester District Registry imposing a fine of £25,000 on them jointly and severally for their contempt of court and committing Stephen Reed to imprisonment for three months in default of payment.

The undertakings had been given to protect the plaintiffs, McMillan Graham Printers Ltd and two other companies, from passing off by the defendants pending trial of the action.

Mr Jonathan Foster, QC and Mr J. Glyn Williams for the defendants; Mr Anthony Elleray for the plaintiffs.

LORD JUSTICE NOURSE said that the judge found the defendants had by acts of omission committed serious breaches of undertakings given by them to the court. He concluded that it was a case for punishing the pocket and not one for imprisonment.

In those circumstances, the judge should have considered the means of both defendants. Whether or not he had jurisdiction to impose a fine jointly and severally against them both, it was quite clear that he should not have done so. He should have looked at each defendant separately.

The order that the judge made would be likely to result in the imposition of three months imprisonment on Mr Reed, a course thought inappropriate by the judge at the time, because of the defendants' inability to pay.

Had the judge considered separately the means of the two defendants he would not have imposed a fine of such an amount on Mr Reed.

Having taken into account all the relevant material that was before the court the correct order would be to impose a fine of £10,000 on the company and of £2,500 on Mr Reed that was to be paid within six months in default of which he should serve 28 days imprisonment.

LORD JUSTICE STUART-SMITH, agreeing, said that in cases of contempt of court the imposition of a fine on two defendants jointly and severally was wrong in principle.

In the circumstance of the instant case it could cause considerable problems because of the different procedures for enforcement against a corporation and against an individual.

The judge ought to have considered each defendant separately, imposing a fine on the company and then going on to consider what was an appropriate fine to impose on Mr Reed and whether to impose a period of imprisonment against him in default.

Lord Justice Waite gave a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: Linder Myers, Manchester; Cobbett Leak Almond, Manchester.

Tape admissibility

Alizadeh v Nikbin and Others

An unambiguous admission of impropriety during a conversation was required to render admissible in evidence a tape recording of a negotiation between parties aimed at settling their dispute.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Balcombe and Lord Justice Simon Brown and Mr Justice Peter Gibson) so held on February 25 rejecting an appeal by the first defendant, Dr Kamran Nikbin, against an order by Judge Cooke that his tape-recorded conversations with the plaintiff, Dr Youssef Alizadeh, were without prejudice and therefore not admissible.

LORD JUSTICE SIMON BROWN said the general rule was that admissions made in the course of negotiations for a settlement should not be admitted in evidence: see *Rush & Tompkins Ltd v Greater London Council* ([1989] AC 1280).

In the light of Lord Justice Hoffmann's judgment in *Forster v Friedland* (unreported, November 10, 1992) such evidence would only be admitted where it contained an unambiguous admission of impropriety. That was not the case here.

Part-exchange can be sale for commission

Connell Estate Agents v Begej

Before Lord Justice Butler-Sloss and Lord Justice Hirst
[Judgment March 8]

A part-exchange was capable of being a sale, provided that the cash element of the transaction was not merely nominal.

The Court of Appeal so held in allowing the appeal of the plaintiffs, Connell Estate Agents, against the order of Judge Crane at Northampton County Court on March 6, 1992 giving judgment for the plaintiffs in the sum of £1828.50 against the defendant, Mr J. Begej. The defendant's cross-appeal was dismissed and judgment was entered for the plaintiffs in the sum of £3760.50.

Mr Andrew Davies for the plaintiffs; Mr Jeremy Pendlebury for the defendant.

LORD JUSTICE HIRST said that a sale of the defendant's house had been negotiated to a purchaser introduced by the plaintiffs, who were estate agents. It had not been an outright cash transaction, the defendant had been paid £53,000 and had received another house in part-exchange.

The written agency agreement between the plaintiffs and the defendant had stipulated a commission of 3 per cent plus value-added tax on "the purchase price ... on the completion of the sale". The estate agents had claimed commission on £109,000, being the aggregate of the purchase price and the value of the part-exchanged house.

The judge had held that the agreement was applicable to the transaction but that "purchase price" referred to the cash element alone.

The defendant had submitted that the judge's conclusion that a part-exchange agreement constituted a sale was wrong, in everyday language a sale connoted a sale for cash.

His Lordship fully accepted that an outright exchange of property without any cash element could not properly be called a sale. However, his Lordship thought that in the 1990s a part-exchange transaction would be regarded as a sale given that everyday items such as cars and washing machines were regularly traded on such a basis.

His Lordship had therefore concluded that the judge's finding that there had been a sale had been correct, subject only to the qualification that his Lordship did not think that the cash element need be large or substantial, as the judge had seemed to indicate, as long as it was not nominal.

Having considered the application of the words in the agreement to the circumstances, his Lordship had concluded that the purchase price had been the aggregate figure of the cash price and the part-exchange value.

That conclusion was fully in accordance with the practical reality of the transaction. It would have been thoroughly artificial to ignore the value of the house, especially as it had made up almost 50 per cent of the transaction and it was in accordance with commercial good sense because it had been the defendant's choice to accept the part-exchange and that choice had in no way reduced the work that had had to be done by the estate agents.

Lord Justice Butler-Sloss agreed.

Solicitors: Bowerman & Partners, Bicester; Batcheldors, Kempston.

Trust property to be held for charitable purposes for all the borough

Peggs and Others v Lamb and Others

Before Mr Justice Morritt
[Judgment March 12]

The freemen and the widows of freemen of the ancient borough of Huntingdon were not entitled to any part of the property held by the plaintiff trustees whether under a private trust or otherwise pursuant to the Municipal Corporations Act 1835 and its statutory successors.

All such property was applicable to charitable purposes generally among the class of qualifying freemen and their widows but a scheme should be directed, pursuant to section 13(1)(d) of the Charities Act 1960, in order to widen the class by reference to which the charitable purposes were laid down to include the inhabitants of the ancient borough as a whole.

Mr Justice Morritt so held in the Chancery Division in respect of an originating summons issued on the application of the plaintiffs, Kenneth Peggs, Edward Thomson Lees, Winifred Mary Price, James McKay, Norman Frank Boyes, Joseph Markham Johnson and Colin Aitken Moore, against the first to third defendants, John Craven Lamb, Albert Plowman Bradshaw and Sidney Charles Bradshaw and the fourth defendant, the Attorney General.

The plaintiffs were the trustees of the Huntingdon Commons Charity and the Lammas Rights Charity.

The first three defendants were appointed to represent the class comprising the freemen and widows of freemen of the ancient borough of Huntingdon and the fourth defendant was joined to represent the interests of charity generally.

Huntingdonshire District Council did not wish to participate in the proceedings whether as successor to the ancient borough or not.

Mr Timothy Lloyd, QC and Mr Malcolm Waters for the trustees; Mr Hubert Picarda, QC, for the freemen; Mr James Munby, QC and Mr Peter Crampin for the Attorney General.

MR JUSTICE MORRITT said that at all material times since January 1, 1961 there had been entered in the register of charities maintained pursuant to section 4 of the 1960 Act particulars respecting the two ancient institutions at Huntingdon with which the originating summons was concerned.

The first was known as as the Huntingdon Commons for the benefit of Freemen and the Widows of Freemen in the Ancient Borough of Huntingdon ("the Commons Charity"). The second was called the Lammas Rights in the Ancient Borough of Huntingdon ("the Lammas Charity").

In the case of the Commons Charity the object as registered was described as "provision of income for the freemen and freemen's widows of Huntingdon granted by Charter". The governing instrument was said to be "Ancient Borough Charter (lost)".

In the case of the Lammas Charity the object as registered was described as "general benefits of the freemen and freemen's widows of the former borough of Huntingdon" of which the governing instrument was the abstract of title.

In each case, it was to be inferred, the charity was presumed to arise from a grant to the ancient borough of Huntingdon subject to a trust or condition in favour of the freemen and their widows, as exemplified in the decision of the House of Lords in *Goodman v Mayor of Saltash* ((1882) 7 AC 633), in order to give lawful origin to rights which had been exercised from time immemorial.

By March 1991 the class of freemen entitled to benefit had so reduced and income from the proceeds of sale of much of the property comprised in the charities had so increased that the annual benefit to a freeman was more than the Charity Commissioners considered to be consistent with application of charitable funds.

They suggested that the plaintiffs, the trustees of both charities, ought to apply for a scheme to ensure that income was only paid to freemen in need and the surplus applied to help the poor and sick of the borough.

The issues raised by the amended originating summons might be summarised as:

1 Whether the freemen and the widows of former freemen for the time being qualified to benefit had a statutory right to take equally between them the whole of the income of the property, whether in the form of land comprised in the original presumed grant or the proceeds of sale of that land or the investments for the time being representing the same. The alleged origin of the right was section 2 of the 1835 Act and the statutes subsequently repealing but re-enacting the same.

2 If there was no such statutory right, whether pursuant to the charitable trust presumed in accordance with the *Saltash* case, the freemen were entitled to the income in equal shares and whether such right was limited to the income from what remained of the land comprised in the original presumed grant so that a scheme was necessary to clarify and declare the trusts applicable to the income arising from the proceeds of sale of such land.

3 Whether the original purposes of the presumed trust ought to be altered pursuant to section 13 of the 1960 Act.

4 If a scheme was required under paragraphs 2 or 3 above what directions should be given as to the principles to be observed in any scheme.

The judgment was confined to the first three issues.

His Lordship set out the history of the charities and of the land in question in some detail. In argument, no distinction was drawn between the Lammas land and the Commons or the two charities and accordingly he would not trace their origins separately.

A Charter of King John dated August 1205 addressed to the burgesses of Huntingdon had confirmed unspecified rights and privileges. Over the subsequent years certain "constitutions and by-laws" were promulgated regulating the use of the commons.

The purpose of a right of pasture was said to be to benefit the families of freemen and to supply the neighbourhood with milk.

In 1829 it was ordained how many animals might be pastured by a freeman or his widow and when and where. By 1835 the evidence showed there had been a number of occasions on which freemen had obtained monetary benefits from their rights.

The 1835 Act came into effect on September 9, 1835. Its purpose was to separate the freemen or burgesses from the corporation and to vest in the reconstituted or new corporation the property of the old but to preserve certain rights of the freemen: see in particular section 2.

Section 92 provided that any surplus on the borough fund "shall be applied, under the direction of the council for the public benefit of the inhabitants and improvement of the borough".

Since 1885 the whole of the income of the proceeds of sale of Commons land or Lammas rights had been paid to the freemen. From 1910 the Charity Commissioners and from 1915 the Revenue had regarded the Commons and the Lammas rights as being held for charity.

At about that time at the latest the annual income surplus was divided equally between the freemen or their widows. The evidence did not show when that practice started save that it was well after the 1835 Act was passed.

From 1958 there were a series of compulsory purchase orders for road construction and housing and most recently parts of the land had been sold for development which had given rise to a substantial increase in income. At the same time the numbers of freemen or widows qualified to benefit had declined.

In 1900, 34 received about £17 each. In 1981 each received about £1,980, but in 1990 each received £31,750. There were now 15 qualified to benefit.

As at April 30, 1992 the trustees had an income of £550,000, investments representing the proceeds of sale of land with a market value of £500,000 and capital cash of £3.8 million as well as part of the original lands and some 700 acres of agricultural land in which other proceeds of sale had been re-invested.

It was not in dispute that both before and after 1835 the qualifying conditions were such as to render the acquisition by the class of qualifying freemen of a *profit a prendre* by prescription impossible in law: see the *Saltash* case.

Nor was it disputed that a trust for such a class in perpetuity would be void on that account unless it was a charitable trust or authorised by statute: *A-G v Webster* ((1875) 20 Eq 483, 491).

It was also common ground that a lawful origin for the long usage and enjoyment which the evidence demonstrated ought if reasonably possible to be presumed: see *Saltash*.

The first issue arose from the claim of the freemen that such an origin might be found in section 2 of the 1835 Act.

The case for the freemen was that the evidence showed a long and consistent pattern of the freemen sharing equally between them the enjoyment of the land *in specie* and any income derived from it.

That usage, it was argued, in 1835, even if permissive only, was converted into a statutory right by section 2. Because the right was conferred by statute it could not be invalidated by the perpetuity rule.

Such a lawful origin was sufficient so that it was not necessary to apply the principle of *Saltash* and presume a charitable trust in favour of the class. Neither institution was a charity with the consequence that they were wrongly registered: *Prestney v Colchester Corporation* ((1882) 21 Ch D 111) and *Stanley v Norwich Corporation* ((1887) 3 TLR 506).

The Attorney General accepted that section 2 made pre-existing rights actionable at law but denied that the section was capable of creating a right out of a pre-existing precarious usage.

The position prior to 1835 was that the land was held on charitable trusts which the 1835 Act did not affect. In so far as any beneficial interest in the land remained in the borough at least after 1835 it became and still was subject to charitable trusts by virtue of section 92 of the 1835 Act and the various Acts repealing and re-enacting the same.

The decisions in *Prestney* and *Stanley* were in substance overruled by the decision of the Court of Appeal in *In re Norwich Town Close Estate Charity* ((1888) 40 Ch D 298).

The freemen contended that section 92 did not have that effect.

His Lordship dealt with that point by referring to *A-G v Aspinall* ((1837) 2 My & Cr 613, 618) wherein the Lord Chancellor referred to the effect of section 92 as devoting the funds in question to "public, or in other words, charitable purposes": see also *A-G v De Winton* ((1906) 2 Ch 106, 116); the Local Government Act 1972 and *Barrs v Bethell* ((1982) Ch 294, 306).

His Lordship preferred the submissions of the Attorney General. There was the actual decision in *R v Watson* ((1804) 5 East 480) in which the trust created could only have been a charitable trust because of the rule against perpetuities.

The same result was reached by applying one of the principles established by the *Saltash* case, namely that a lawful origin for the long usage and enjoyment by the freemen should, if reasonably possible, be presumed.

It was necessary to decide what was the quality of the freemen's use and enjoyment in and before 1835 for the purpose of seeing what effect the Act might have had thereon. By then the use and enjoyment had existed for over 600 years so that a lawful origin ought to be presumed as at 1835 if it was reasonably possible to do so.

For all the reasons given by the House of Lords in *Saltash* which were equally applicable in 1835 such lawful origin could only be found in a charitable trust.

Moreover, the wording of section 2 predicated a right before 1835 which was more than merely precarious. Both the proviso and decided cases all showed that the section could not be applied to create a right where none previously existed.

The only authority to the contrary was *Prestney v Colchester Corporation* (at p120). That case, however, was effectively over-ruled by the Court of Appeal in the *Norwich Town Close* case which said that the trust declared in *Stanley v Norwich Corporation* could only be a charitable trust. That decision which was binding was necessarily inconsistent with the judgments in *Prestney* and *Stanley*.

Thus in those two cases, the interests of the freemen arose under charitable trusts of the *Saltash* type and not under private trusts based on precarious usage by virtue of section 2. The answer to the first issue was in the negative.

On that basis the rights and interests of the freemen arose from a charitable trust of the *Saltash* type but the nature of such a trust and of the rights and interests of the freemen was disputed.

The freemen contended that they were entitled to share equally the entire income of the land, proceeds of sale and investments for the time being representing the same. In *Saltash* the trust or condition was regarded as a valid charitable trust because it was for the benefit of the inhabitants of a specific locality or a particular class of such inhabitants.

The problem how to reconcile the *Saltash* case with the general principles of law relating to charitable trusts was apparent from the judgments in *In re Christchurch Enclosure Act* ((1888) 38 Ch D 520, 530); *Williams Trustees v IRC* ([1947] AC 447, 460) and *IRC v Baddeley* ([1955] AC 572, 591).

The point was that it was not enough that the trust should be for the public benefit: it must also be beneficial in a way in which the the law regarded it as charitable: *Williams Trustees v IRC*. The purpose of the trust must fall within the spirit and intendment of the preamble to the Charitable Uses Act 1601: see Lord Macnaghten's classification in *IRC v Pemsel* ([1891] AC 531, 583).

His Lordship rejected the freemen's submission that the purpose of the trust was merely the provision of income and general benefits for the freemen and their widows. The usage since time immemorial did not justify the presumption that the trust existed for the purpose of benefiting the freemen individually.

There was a difference between the purpose of a trust and the means by which the purpose might be achieved: compare *IRC v McMullen* ([1981] AC 1, 14A-B). The inference in *Saltash* seemed to be that whatever gave rise to the limitations on a gift for the benefit of a specified parish or town which rendered it a gift for exclusively charitable purposes applied equally to a gift for the benefit of a particular class of such inhabitants.

The principle on which such gifts were treated as being for exclusively charitable purposes was clear from *In re Smith* ([1932] Ch 153) and accordingly since there was nothing to exclude it the property available by virtue of the gift was and always had been applicable for charitable purposes for the benefit of the freemen and their widows possessing the necessary qualifications. Accordingly, in relation to the second issue the answer was in the negative.

As to whether a scheme was necessary, the real issue was whether in the circumstances there was jurisdiction to order it for the *cy-près* application of the income. That depended on section 13 of the 1960 Act.

The absence of any founding document did not preclude the existence of any "spirit of the gift": see *In re Lepton* ([1972] Ch 276, 285). Accordingly such spirit had to be inferred. The freemen contended that the spirit of the gift of the gift was the benefit of the freemen.

The original purposes were general charitable purposes for the benefit of qualifying freemen and their widows which were presumed to have been the purposes laid down in the Middle Ages.

In those days the class of freemen was then and for several centuries later thereafter entirely suitable as a class by reference to which the charitable purposes should be laid down. That was no longer so.

The effect of the 1835 Act was to destroy the political importance of the freemen thus undermining their social and economic importance too. The membership of the class was thereby restricted. The inevitable consequence over 150 years was that the class had dwindled very considerably. There would come a time when the class of freemen ceased to be a section of the public at all.

It was not necessary to decide whether that time had passed so that the case for a scheme could be made out under section 13(1)(e)(ii) because it was clear that a case had been made out under paragraph (d).

The original basic intention or spirit of the gift was the benefit of the borough of Huntingdon. It would be entirely consistent with that that in 1993 the class of persons by reference to which the charitable purposes were laid down should be enlarged from the freemen to the inhabitants as a whole.

Solicitors: Greenwoods, Peterborough; Bates Wells & Braithwaite; Treasury Solicitor.



OPERA page 36
English National Opera premieres its radical new production of rare Monteverdi

ARTS

ROCK page 37
The great blues revival gather pace with this week's festival at the Borderline



Many superb paintings are tucked away in less well known stately homes. **Richard Cork** tours the shires

Old Masters in their country seats

Easter at Woburn, and a zealous guide bustled past me in the Long Gallery with a group of visitors. "And here," she declared, pausing by a prominent exhibit, "is the most famous painting in the world." Wondering what on earth she could mean, and hearing gasps from her audience, I moved forward to gain a clear view. Instead of the *Mona Lisa*, on a once-in-a-lifetime loan from the Louvre, the picture turned out to be the so-called Armada Portrait of Elizabeth I. The man who painted it, George Gower, may have been fashionable in late 16th-century London, but his stiff, doll-like image of the victorious Queen failed to justify the guide's breathless boast.

Now that stately homes across the country are about to reopen their portals, similarly heady claims will no doubt be made about the art-works they contain. Sometimes, the extravagant attributions are committed to print as well. In the catalogue published by the Methuen Collection at Corsham Court in Wiltshire, a flaccid carving of *The Sleeping Cupid* is brazenly described as an original Michelangelo. No expert would ever substantiate such an inflated assertion.

Nor does Corsham Court need to indulge in artificial boosting. For many of the paintings displayed in the resplendent Picture Gallery, designed by "Capability" Brown in 1760, are authentic and powerful images by major artists. Van Dyck's *The Betrayal of Christ* is an unforgettably dramatic response to its subject. The jostling figures who surround Christ convey a vivid range of emotions, from astonishment and fear to furtiveness.

Another outstanding Corsham picture compels in a different way. Nothing could be more serene than Fra Filippo Lippi's *Annunciation*, probably painted for the cathedral of Pistoia. While the balding donor, Jacopo Bellucci, prays in the distance, the angel presents a lily to the Virgin. And beyond the marble coolness of the interior is an exquisite Tuscan landscape.

Such a captivating image proves that art of the highest and rarest quality can be found in country houses far less widely celebrated than the heavily publicised mansions. Despite its fame, Longleat has a disappointing picture collection. As for Blenheim, the choicest paintings belonging to the Marlborough family (including Raphael's *Ansidei Madonna*, now in the National Gallery) were sold off in the 19th century.

Impressive family portraits can usually be found even in homes inhabited over the centuries by diehard philistines. But a surprising number of excellent pictures can be discovered in out-of-the-way locations, mercifully removed from the razzle-dazzle of safari parks and adventure playgrounds.

Take Upton House, tucked away quietly in the Warwickshire countryside near Banbury. The mellow stone building dates from the 1690s, rebuilt from scratch by the impetuous-sounding Sir Rushout Cullen. The extraordinary collection of paintings, however, was amassed in the early decades of the present century by the second Viscount Bearstead. He gave house, grounds and pictures to the National Trust in 1948.

Bearstead had a particularly good eye for the Flemish and Netherlandish schools. Outstanding among the portraits by van der Goes, Memling and van der Weyden is a mesmerising and highly original *Death of the Virgin* by Brueghel the Elder. Illuminated by candlelight, and painted in monochrome alone, the dying woman sits up in bed encircled by mourners. The maid asleep in the foreground provides a foil for the intense emotions displayed elsewhere in the macabre chamber.



Upton House's The Death of the Virgin by Pieter Brueghel the Elder. National Trust Photographic Library/Upton House/Bearsted Collection/Angelo Hornak

At Upton, visitors are spoiled for choice. Elsewhere, though, a single painting stands out from a low-key collection. At Dyrham Park near Bath, the principal pictures are a series of bird images by the Dutch artist Hondecoeter. But then we discover Samuel van Hoogstraten's enchanting *View down a corridor*, a playful and illusionistic work which invites us to stroll through a 17th-century house past a dog, a cat, a conversing couple and a scrap of paper lying on the polished wooden stairs. Hoogstraten does his best to beguile us with *trompe-l'oeil* on a grand scale. He certainly fooled Pepys, who saw the painting through the owner's closet door and was taken in completely.

In this instance, nobody has ever questioned the authenticity of the signature Hoogstraten inscribed, along with the date, on that scrap of paper. But one of the most poetic and mysterious paintings in an English country house has been a battleground for art historians ever since it was acquired, on Byron's advice, around 1820. The purchaser, William Bankes, thought that the immense *Judgement of Solomon* was by the most elusive of Venetian artists, Giorgione. But this attribution was soon disputed. Now that the canvas has passed to the National Trust, along with the other pictures at Kingston Lacy in Dorset, the balance of opinion has settled on Sebastiano del Piombo.

Although unfinished and extensively damaged, the painting is still a masterpiece of Venetian narrative art. The conflict between the true and false mothers is played out like a ballet in an imposing antique basilica. And the magisterial composition presides over a remarkable collection at Kingston Lacy, where the subtlety of a Velázquez portrait is pitched against the sumptuousness of a Titian.

By no means all the paintings in stately homes are displayed as well as they could be. Sometimes the finest are consigned, perversely, to the dimmest corners. Or else they inhabit a roped-off area. All the same, it can still be enormously gratifying to find paintings installed in a setting ideally suited to their character. Most public galleries provide neutral surroundings. But at Buscot Park, near Faringdon in Oxfordshire, a series of Burne-Jones's best paintings are hung in a saloon perfectly attuned to their melancholy mood.

Blanched maidens slumber beneath an enveloping briar-rose in this Pre-Raphaelite version of the Sleeping Beauty story. Acquired by the industrialist Alexander Henderson, the first Lord Faringdon, they provide a hallucinatory climax to a collection which also contains Murillo, Gainsborough and Rembrandt's marvellously introspective portrait of Clement de Jongh.

Above all, though, country houses still retain unrivalled holdings of the two masters most cherished by aristocratic devotees of the Grand Tour: Poussin and Claude. To see Poussin, visit Belvoir Castle in Leicestershire, where the Duke of Rutland owns a superbly eloquent series of *The Seven Sacraments*.

As for Claude, he can be seen at his most luminous in the *Seaport with the Setting Sun*, a magical canvas at Alnwick Castle, Northumberland. But Holkham Hall in Norfolk owns several superb Claudes, including an elegiac *Landscape with the Flaying of Marsyas*. To find Claude at his most lyrical, though, go back to Woburn for his delectable *Landscape with a Rustic Dance*.

Of all the great European painters, he seems most at home in the grand houses of England. And they have acknowledged Claude's special place by resisting the temptation to sell his work. Go and enjoy them this Easter, along with all the other marvels waiting to be discovered even in the least familiar of the nation's treasure-houses.

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR

CRITICS' CHOICE: GALLERIES

● ***SIGURDUR ORLYGSSON/ JON AXEL:*** The second show of contemporary Icelandic art in the Shad Thames Galleries, hard by the Design Museum, confirms the Shad Thames Galleries' role as a regular Icelandic showcase in London. Orlygsson (or Siggi Orlygs as he is here billed) is expansive and eccentric, making beautifully drawn and textured paintings evoking a sort of Jules Verne sci-fi fantasy world and, in several cases, sprouting sculpted projections of rickety aircraft and such. Axel is introspective and sombre, with expressionistically extorted figures peeping out of boldly coloured abstractions. Both testify to the viality and unpredicability of Icelandic painting today.
Shad Thames Galleries, Butler's Wharf, SE1 (Information: 071-730 5131). Daily noon-5pm, until April 6.

● **WILLIAM GREEN:** Tremendously famous in the early Sixties for his violent methods of painting, closely akin to those of the American and continental action painters, Green vanished completely from view for nearly 30 years. Apparently he got fed up, and gave up painting altogether in favour of teaching. He is also featured in the "Sixties" show at the Barbican.
England & Co. 14 Needham Road, W11 (071-221 0417). Tues-Sat 11am-6pm, until March 27.

● **WILLI SOUKOP:** The veteran sculptor is now 86; born in Vienna, he has spent most of his working life in England, where he has exercised wide influence as professor of sculpture at the Royal Academy. His own work is highly individual and idiosyncratic, usually based on the human figure but happy to handle it with a freedom that often turns the finished piece into an archetypal form rather than a literal rendition.
Woodlands Art Gallery, 90 Mycenae Road, Blackheath, SE3 (081-858 5847). Mon-Tues, Thurs-Sat 11am-5pm, Sun 2-5pm. Closed Wed. Until April 18.

● **THE STARS OF PAINTING:** The winners of the 1992 Accor European painting competition, selected from an entry of more than 650 artists. The Parisian painter Régis Rizzo is overall winner with a simple, subtle painting of a fish against a white ground. The show as a whole provides telling witness to the vitality of sheer painting today, in any style from minute realism to total abstraction; clearly the conceptual does not have the field of art entirely to itself.
Novotel, Shortlands, Hammersmith, W6 (081-741 1555). First-floor lobby, open 24hrs daily, until April 14.

TELEVISION REVIEW

Muddy missions and rural rides

Last night's Disguises (ITV), was about the embattled business of fox-hunting. *Run with the Fox, Ride with the Hounds* accompanied two Granada reporters, Kate Stone and Neil Henderson, as they infiltrated respectively the followers of the hunt and the hunt saboteurs, in various muddy stretches of wintry Cheshire and North Staffordshire.

Stone and Henderson looked and sounded plausible to an inexpert eye, but whereas he (army-surplus anorak, wellies, woollen hat and specs) was quickly accepted among the "sabs", she (waxed coat, rather fetching highwayman hat and red Volvo) found it almost impossible to gain acceptance among the stout yeomen and women of the shires. Her accent sounded out of place and her dress sense was noticeably better than theirs. No wonder she was expelled from a pub, loudly protesting her willingness to pay her fees as a follower: most unlikely behaviour.

Each of the journalists was in some physical danger during the assignment, as became clearer with each ill-tempered clash between "sportsmen" and "activists". Two years ago, a saboteur was killed when he fell beneath the wheels of a hunt-follower's vehicle; during the course of the film we saw what appeared to be furtive physical assaults on sabs who were foolish enough to become separated from their friends while out of direct camera shot. Stone was eloquent about both the total suspicion with which any outsider is viewed among the hunt set, and about the terrors of riding to hounds, particularly for a novice rider, regardless of any actual hunting.

Cameras were everywhere: sabs, followers and the unfortunate police (trying to keep the groups apart) all carried camcorders to record the others' behaviour; Stone and Henderson had one each concealed in their clothing or bags. Neither Jeremy Beadle nor Noel Edmonds appeared, however, nor did Cilla Black pop up from behind a hedge warbling "Surprise, Surprise": this was all in deadly earnest and ultimately quite depressing viewing.

It is clear that neither side will graciously concede defeat. If the sabs make hunting too expensive to police, it may eventually fall victim to local government expenditure cuts and be banned. If the hunters continue to ride out, the sabs are unlikely to give up. Unpaid (despite the hunt followers' belief to the contrary) they act out of conviction, not unmixed with class envy. The hunters are no less prisoners of their convictions. As one snow-spattered rider put it, at the end of a long, cold day in the saddle: "This is a *sport*?"

TONY PATRICK

Sharp-shooter's sharp practice

ON MEETING the legendary marikswoman Annie Oakley in 1887, Queen Victoria observed: "You are a very, very clever little girl." Had the monarch managed a closer inspection of the "rare smooth-bore Winchester rifle" offered by Christie's on March 24, she may have been less impressed. The evidence is that Annie's sharp-shooting feats — the inspiration for Irving Berlin's musical *Annie Get Your Gun* — were not quite what they seemed.

Audiences who thrilled to Oakley's Wild West show performances at Earls Court assumed that a single shot was being fired at the glass balls her assistant threw into the air. In fact, the weapon was not a rifle but a shotgun firing "dust shots," thereby rendering the challenge of hitting her mark much easier and far less dangerous than had been assumed by her mesmerised audiences.

"The main reason she used such a gun was for safety," says Christie's expert Chris Austyn, who remains a fan. "She could still split playing cards with revolvers," he adds loyally. The gun is being sold by a descendant of one of Oakley's earliest English fans, and it is estimated that it will fetch £15,000 to £20,000.



Annie Oakley: one of her rifles is being sold on Wednesday at Christie's (estimate £15,000-£20,000)

● SOTHEBY'S famous kiosk has gone. The bizarre little shack which used to cling to the facade of the company's Bond Street premises, offering clients newspapers and refreshments before they entered the world of art and antiques, has been replaced with a grand entrance topped by the company's mascot — an ancient figure of Sekmet, the lion-headed Egyptian goddess.

And inside the auction house's premises, instead of the worn carpets and rickety staircases of old, visitors encounter an imposing stately-home setting of grand stairways, lavish marbling and elegant vistas.

This recession-defying transformation is the brainchild of the company's American owner, Alfred Taubman. Having begun his period of ownership ten years ago with the words "selling art is just like selling root beer," it appears that he has changed his mind.

ART MARKET DIARY

Red tape warning

SO COMPLEX are the new rules applying to art export from April 1 that the Department of National Heritage has issued a flow-chart for owners. Bearing a close resemblance to a circuit board, it reveals that the minimum value for items requiring export licences will vary according to type. One will be required for all oil paintings worth £119,000, while the minimum value for incunabula will be £39,600 and for armour £6,000.

There are two kinds of licence: a UK licence which covers "intra-community" trade and an EC licence for exports to non-EC countries. But the circuit fuses with the news that when the EC threshold exceeds the British one, a UK licence is required for exports outside the Community. The previous export rules were condemned as unworkable and often unfair. The new ones may turn bewildered owners into smugglers.

Office nudes

LONDON art dealers are normally seen in pinstripes, but those running Atrium in Cork Street can be seen with no clothes on at all. The current exhibition of work by Barry Evans includes a dozen nude drawings of members of the gallery staff, reclining decorously or sprawling sensuously. Although "sold" stickers are gathering, some are still available at up to £100. Evans is a versatile artist whose oeuvre includes Surrealist fantasies reminiscent of Bosch and imitation Old Masters so convincing that the British Museum included some in their 1989 exhibition of fakes.

SARAH JANE CHECKLAND

English National Opera EN O
TCHAIKOVSKY
The Queen of Spades
April 3 | 6 | 10 | 16 | 22 | 24 | 27 | 30 at 7.15pm
"... production of ravishing beauty."
Daily Telegraph
Box Office 071 836 3161
London Coliseum
St Martin's Lane London WC2
This revival is supported by a donation from
FRIENDS OF ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA



Registered Charity No. 235710 Janice Cairns as Lisa | Photo: DA Cooper

هكذا من الأجل

LONDON

CITY OF ANGELS. *Michael Blakemore* directs the London staging of the award-winning Broadway show combining the world of Forties private eye films with Broadway musical comedy
Prince of Wales, Coventry Street, W1 (071-839 5987) Previewing eves, 7.30pm, opens Mar 30, 7pm, then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed, Sat, 2.30pm

THE DUEL OF TANCREDI AND CLORINDA/BLUEBEARD'S CASTLE David Alden's production of Bartók's *harrowing drama was acclaimed on its* first appearance a couple of years ago Now it reappears in an intriguing double bill with Alden's new staging of a work by Monteverdi that shares its qualities of musical and dramatic concision. Patricia Rozario makes her house debut *in the Monteverdi, partnered by* Christopher Ventris and conducted by Harry Bicket. Gwynne Howell and Sally Burgess sing the Bartók, which Adam Fischer conducts (see review, right)
Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (071-836 3161), tomorrow, 7.30pm

DESERT ISLAND PICKS A collection of best-loved images from photojournalism to contemporary fine art photography chosen by 40 or so notable photography connoisseurs, including film-maker David Puttnam and musician Pete Townshend
The Photographers' Gallery, Units 11 and 17 Shad Thames, Butler's Wharf, SE1 (071-378 8445) Daily, midday-5pm until March 28

PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA Under Carlo Maria Giulini the Philharmonia presents a popular *programme of Haydn (Symphony No 94)*, Britten (Serenade for tenor, horn and strings, with Keith Lewis and Richard Watkins), and Dvořák (Symphony No 9)
Festival Hall, South Bank, SE1 (071-928 8800), tomorrow, 7.30pm

WEEKEND EVENTS

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kari Knight

THE BLACK NIGHT: Penned in 1893, Elgar's choral work *The Black Knight* is given a centenary performance by the St Michael's Singers. Jonathan Rennert also conducts Elgar's *Te Deum* and *Benedictus*. With organist Lee Ward
St Michael's Church, Cornhill, EC3 (admission at door), tomorrow, 7pm

VAN MORRISON: The Irish singer and consistent superstar — in terms of high *quality of performance* — is privileged to play the final show at the Town and Country before it changes management and name
Town and Country Club, Highgate Road, NW5 (071-284 0303), Sun, 7.30pm

SCOTT HAMILTON Jazz of a very high order from the tenor saxophonist, inspired by the music of the Thirties and Forties, and justifiably compared with his forebears Coleman Hawkins, Lester Young, Zoot Sims
Pizza Express, Dean Street, W1 (071-437 9595), *tonight, tomorrow, 9pm*; then Mar 24-29, Mar 31-Apr 4

REGIONAL

GLASGOW The American-born Robert Cohan has choreographed **Scottish Ballet**'s first production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* which receives its world premiere tonight Mendelssohn's music is supplemented by music specially composed by Barrington Pheloung
Theatre Royal, Hope Street (041-332 9000) Tonight, tomorrow, 7.15pm, mat tomorrow, 2.30pm, until April 27.

HORSHAM Anish Kapoor, the British sculptor and 1991 Turner prizewinner, has created the designs for dancer **Laurie Booth**'s latest dance creation *River Run*, which receives a try-out in Horsham before opening in London next week as part of the Spring Loaded festival. The piece features an "octophonic sound environment" from Booth's long-time collaborator, Hans Peter Kuhn.
Arts Centre, North Street (0403 268689), tonight, 8pm.

LEEDS Matthew Warchus's fresh staging of **The Plough and the Stars**, O'Casey's finest play, amounts to a potent balance of heroism and bathos Good performances by the cast including Amanda Root, Ian Fitzgibbon, Sorcha Cusack, Dillie Keane.
West Yorkshire Playhouse (Quarry Theatre), Quarry Hill Mount (0532 442111) Mon-Fri, 7.30pm, Sat, 8pm, mats (Mar 27) 2.30pm (Apr 2) 2pm, until Apr 10.

MANCHESTER: The indie-dance, crossover crew **Jesus Jones** are back with more sample-strewn rock and a new album, *Perverse*. Support comes from the techno band Sunscreem.
Academy, Oxford Road (061-839 0858), tomorrow, 7.30pm.

SHEFFIELD: *The St Petersburg* **Symphony Orchestra** stops off in Sheffield, midway through a British tour The programme comprises Tchaikovsky's fantasy overture from *Romeo and Juliet*, Rachmaninov's Third Symphony and Glazunov's Violin Concerto in A minor (with Maxim Fedotov as the soloist). Alexander Dmitriev conducts.
City Hall (0742 722885), tonight, 7.30pm.

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ **House full, returns only**
◩ **Some seats available**
□ **Seats at all prices**

■ **CRAZY FOR YOU.** Thrillingly staged new version of the Gershwin musical *Girl Crazy*. Exceptional entertainment value
Prince Edward, Old Compton Street, W1 (071-734 8951) Mon-Sat, 7.45pm mats Thurs, Sat, 3pm 150mins

◩ **CYRANO DE BERGERAC** Robert Lindsay looks right as the nasally challenged hero but the production is too bustling to give enough room to the full poignancy of his fate
Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (071-930 8800) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed and Sat, 2.30pm 180mins.

◩ **THE DEEP BLUE SEA** Exceptionally strong production of the Rattigan drama by Karel Reisz transfers after a sell-out run at the Almeida. With Penelope Wilton and Linus Roache.
Apollo, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (071-494 5070) Previewing eves, 7.45pm, opens Mon, 7pm, then Mon-Fri, 7.45pm, Sat, 8pm, mats Wed, 3pm, Sat, 4pm 140mins

■ **THE GIFT OF THE GORGON.** Following a sell-out run at the Barbican Pit, Peter Shaffer's play transfers to the West End. Judi Dench heads the cast
Wyndham's, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (071-867 1116) Previewing eves, 7.45pm opens Tues, 7pm then Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Sat, 3pm 165mins

■ **THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST.** Maggie Smith commands the brittle world of lost handbags in this elegant revival. With Alex Jennings, Richard E Grant, Margaret Tyzack.
Aldwych, The Aldwych, WC2 (071-836 6404) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed, Sat, 2.30pm.

■ **AN INSPECTOR CALLS** Stephen Daldry's thrilling Expressionist production of Priestley's soul-searcher
National (Olivier), South Bank, SE1 (071-928 2252) Tonight, tomorrow, 7.15pm, mat tomorrow, 2pm 115mins

◩ **INVADE MY PRIVACY** The tart and witty poems/songs of Fran Landesman brilliantly delivered around a dinner table by four performers and a three-piece band. A real tonic
Riverside Studios, Crisp Road, W6 (081-748 3354) Mon-Fri, 7.45pm, Sat, 5pm and 8pm. 120mins

◩ **THE INVISIBLE MAN:** Not so cosy a venue as its birthplace in Stratford East but the show is as jolly as ever. Paul Kieve's magic tricks are amazing.
Vaudeville, Strand, WC2 (071-836 9987) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed, Sat, 3pm 150mins.

■ **KING LEAR:** Solid, respectable performance by Tom Wilkinson in a low-powered staging by Max Stafford-Clark. With Saskia Reeves, Hugh Ross.
Royal Court, Sloane Square, SW1 (071-730 1745). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sat, 2.30pm 195mins. Final week.

◩ **KISS OF THE SPIDER WOMAN:** Tremendously glossy production of the Kander & Ebb musical. It coarsens the values of Manuel Puig's novel but Chita Rivera makes a striking vamp
Shaftesbury, Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (071-379 5399) Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Wed, Sat, 3pm 160mins.

■ **THE LAST YANKEE:** Subtle and touching Arthur Miller premiere: Zoe Wanamaker, Peter Davison lead a quartet of middle-aged Americans *troubled by material success*
Young Vic, 66 The Cut, SE1 (071-928 6363). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Wed, Sat, 2.30pm. 75mins. Margot Leicester takes over from Wanamaker on March 23

◩ **LOST IN YONKERS:** Terrific *performance by Rosemary Harris in a* Neil Simon comedy more weighty than usual. Maureen Lipman gives good value as a loopy aunt.
Strand, Aldwych, WC2 (071-930 8800). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed, Sat, 2.30pm. 160mins.

□ **NO MAN'S LAND:** Paul Eddington and the author in tense, sharply comic Pinter. Riveting stuff.
Comedy, Panton Street, W1 (071-867 1045). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 5pm. 130mins.

◩ **ON THE PISTE** John Godber's slight but amusing look at partner trouble in a downmarket ski resort.
Garrick, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (071-494 5085) Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 4pm 135mins.

□ **PLAYLAND:** Athol Fugard's two-hander: white man and black man, loitering outside a fairground, haul up their past and hint at the future. Builds to an eloquent climax.
Donmar Warehouse, Earlham Street, WC2 (071-867 1150), Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 4pm. 90mins

◩ **TRAVELS WITH MY AUNT:** William Gaunt, John Wells, Richard Kane, Christopher Gee play all 26 parts in Giles Havergal's adaptation of Graham Greene's novel.
Whitehall, Whitehall, SW1 (071-867 1119) Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.15pm, mats Wed, 3pm, Sat, 5pm. 140mins.

LONG RUNNERS: □ **Blood Brothers:** Phoenix (071-867 1044) ■ **Buddy:** Victoria Palace (071-834 1317) . . ■ **Cats:** New London (071-405 0072) . . □ **Don't Dress for Dinner:** Duchess (071-494 5070) ◩ **Five Guys Named Moe:** Lyric (071-494 5045) . . . □ **Hay Fever:** Albery (071-867 1115) ◩ **An Ideal Husband:** Globe (071-494 5065) □ **It Runs in the Family:** Playhouse (071-839 4401) . . ■ **Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat:** Palladium (071-494 5037) . . . ■ **Les Misérables:** Palace (071-434 0909) ■ **Miss Saigon:** Theatre Royal, Drury Lane (071-494 5400) . . . □ **The Mousetrap:** St Martin's (071-836 1443) . . . ■ **The Phantom of the Opera:** Her Majesty's (071-494 5400) . . . ◩ **Starlight Express:** Apollo Victoria (071-828 8665) . . . ◩ **The Woman in Black:** Fortune (071-836 2238)

Ticket information supplied by Society of West End Theatre

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

NEW RELEASES

◆ **CANDYMAN** (18): Mythical serial killer snares Virginia Madsen in a *decrepit Chicago housing estate*. Silly stuff, with fancy trimmings. Director, Bernard Rose
MGM Oxford Street (071-636 0310) **Odeons: Kensington** (0426 914666) **Marble Arch** (0426 914501) **West End** (0426 915574) **UCI Whiteleys** (071-792 3332)

CRUSH (15): Impressive, jolting New Zealand fable about sexual power games, a first feature from Alison Maclean. With Marcia Gay Harden, Donogh Rees, Caitlin Bossley
Chelsea (071-351 3742/3743) **Metro** (071-437 0757)

◆ **HOFFA** (15): A star turn by Jack Nicholson as a labour leader with mob connections, but a dull, unedifying David Mamet script. Director, Danny DeVito
Barbican (071-638 8891) **MGM Chelsea** (071-352 5096) **MGM Tottenham Court Road** (071-636 6148) **Odeons: Kensington** (0426 914666) **West End** (0426 915574) **UCI Whiteleys** (071-792 3332)

CURRENT

◆ **HONEYMOON IN VEGAS** (12): Private eye Nicolas Cage tries to save girlfriend from gambler James Caan's clutches. Andrew Bergman's agreeable, old-fashioned screwball comedy.
MGM Oxford Street (071-636 0310) ***Odeons: Mezzanine*** (0426 915683) **West End** (0426 915 574)

KNIFE IN THE WATER (PG): Gripping psychological games on a small sailing boat. Welcome revival of Polanski's first (and best) Polish feature, made in 1962
Renoir (071-837 8402)

◆ **LEON THE PIG FARMER** (15): Jewish lad discovers his embarrassing pedigree. Enthusiastic British comedy that gets unduly silly. Directors, Vadim Jean, Gary Sinyor
MGM Tottenham Court Road (071-636 6148) **MGM Trocadero** (071-434 0031) **Odeon Kensington** (0426 914666)

◆ **MALCOLM X** (15). Spike Lee's ambitious epic, glossily mounted, with atmospheric music. Denzel Washington is solid as the black activist, but prickly issues get sidestepped, and there is little cinematic fire.
Camden Plaza (071-485 2443) **MGM Fulham Road** (071-370 2636) **MGM Shaftesbury Avenue** (071-836 6279) **MGM Trocadero** (071-434 0031) ***Screen on the Green*** (071-226 3520) **UCI Whiteleys** (071-792 3332)

OLIVIER OLIVIER (15): Teenager missing for six years returns home; but is it really him? Fascinating story, but prosaic treatment by director Agnieszka Holland
MGM Swiss Centre (071-439 4470).

ORLANDO (PG): Virginia Woolf's exuberant novel about a free spirit (Tilda Swinton) who lives for 400 years changing sex en route, filmed with great aplomb by British director Sally Potter
Gate (071-727 4043) **Lumière** (071-836 0691) **MGM Chelsea** (071-352 5096) **Screen on the Hill** (071-435 3366).

◆ **A RIVER RUNS THROUGH IT** (PG): Robert Redford's hymn to family, nature and fly fishing. Beautifully mounted, but lacking punch. With Craig Sheffer, Brad Pitt, Tom Skerritt
MGM Fulham Road (071-370 2636) **MGM Haymarket** (071-839 1527) **MGM Trocadero** (071-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** (071-792 3332)

◆ **SCENT OF A WOMAN** (15): A blind army veteran visits New York with a prep school pup. Far too long, with a barnstorming star (Al Pacino) and just a few spots of magic. With Chris O'Donnell; director, Martin Brest.
Camden Parkway (071-267 7034) **Empire** (071-437 1234/497 9999) **MGM Baker Street** (071-935 9772) **MGM Fulham Road** (071-370 2636) **MGM Trocadero** (071-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** (071-792 3332).

◆ **UNDER SIEGE** (15): US battleship gets hijacked, but Steven Seagal saves the day. Familiar antics, with juicy villainy from Tommy Lee Jones and Gary Busey. Director, Andrew Davis.
MGM Fulham Road (071-370 2636) ***MGM Oxford Street*** (071-630 0310) **Plaza** (071-437 1234/497 9999) **UCI Whiteleys** (071-792 3332).

TOYS (PG). Toy factory falls into evil hands. Over-elaborate, unfunny whimsy from director Barry Levinson; with Robin Williams, Michael Gambon, Joan Cusack, and toys galore.
Camden Parkway (071-267 7034) **MGM Chelsea** (071-352 5096) **Odeons: Kensington** (0426 914666) **Leicester Square** (0426 915683) **UCI Whiteleys** (071-792 3332).

A WINTER'S TALE (12). A Paris hairdresser's quest for true love. Eric Rohmer near his best: elegant, clear-eyed, realistic. A film laced with magic. Stars Charlotte Very
MGM Swiss Centre (071-439 4470)

FESTIVAL

SEVENTH HEAVEN The seventh London Lesbian and Gay Festival begins tomorrow with Jarman's *Wittgenstein* and ends on March 31 with Rosa von Praunheim's *I Am My Own Woman*. In between, audacious features, lively documentaries, rude shorts, and archive gems such as Alla Nazimova in the 1923 *Salome*.
National Film Theatre (071-928 3232)

OPERA: An out of the ordinary double-bill makes a musically impressive evening

Too much of a good thing?

The Duel of Tancredi and Clorinda/ Bluebeard's Castle
Coliseum

OPERATIC double-bills are curious creatures. Before the marriage of Mascagni and Leoncavallo, the general aim in bills was contrast and variety, and to look back with nostalgia to such times would doubtless be thought frivolous. But you can have too much of a good thing.

The traditional partner for *Bluebeard's Castle* at the ENO has been *Oedipus Rex*. Two years ago the Stravinsky didn't quite work in David Alden's production, and for the current revival of his Bartók a new partner has been devised: Monteverdi's *Duel of Tancredi and Clorinda*, preceded by five of his madrigals. So, lovers fighting to the death, and after the interval more of same. It was like attending an extremely up-market *Cav* and *Pag*. Ideally *Bluebeard*, a singularly depressing masterpiece, should come first, and be followed by something as defiantly flippant as an Offenbach one-acter (there are plenty on the subject of marriage). But the ENO is made of sterner stuff.

The Monteverdi is musically very impressive. Harry Bicket conducts his hand-picked band of seven on the forestage with ideal flexibility and non-buttonholing period poise. The madrigals which treat of love and war, sung by the protagonists of *Duel*, prepare the ground neatly. And very well sung they are too, by Paul Nilon (Narrator) and Christopher Ventris (Tancredi), two clean-limned tenors, and in particular by Patricia Rozario (Clorinda), luscious of tone and admirably clear of diction. Anne Ridler's excellent translation was used.

Alden's staging, in designs by Nigel Lowery, is teasingly enigmatic. A little white room — *Huis-Closet*? — is revealed half way up the proscenium opening. During the madrigals a three-way relationship is implied. The duel is fought not on a battlefield, but invisibly on a white leather sofa (back to the audience). Rozario starts in a suit, but reveals a skirt, perversely, in time for the duel: Ventris, his skin painted red, looks bemused: Nilon gives an Angst-ridden performance of great, if generalised, power. The audience was gripped — quiet as mice — and greatly appreciative.

And so from the little white box to the large red box in which the Alden-Lowery *Bluebeard* is played out. The production, which I found pole-axing in its impact two years ago, has not worn well. Once the shock value of the visual coups and the scarifyingly intense interpretations of Sally Burgess and Gwynne Howell has worn off, you start to notice that the careful structure of Bartók's score, its rigorously logical shape, is not well served by Alden's direction. If you start out at a stratospheric level of hysteria, and from the outset replace the foreboding and icy self-control suggested by Bluebeard's music with knuckle-biting neurosis, there really is nowhere left to go, no journey to make. These 60 minutes of high anxiety are Mel Brooks rather than Bartók.

Burgess was in fabulous voice at Wednesday's opening, her tone warm, steady and characteristically communicative; Howell sounded marginally underpowered, but was as impressive as ever in what remains one of his great roles. Adam Fischer conducted. The colour of the score was compellingly realised by the orchestra, but tighter rhythmic control and tauter pacing would release the piece's baleful power even more pitilessly.

RODNEY MILNES

DONALD COOPER



Duelling tenors: Christopher Ventris (Tancredi) and Paul Nilon (Narrator) in Monteverdi's *The Duel of Tancredi and Clorinda*

THEATRE: An Irish company tours authentic O'Casey; a pirate romp comes to south London

Object lesson in the unsentimental truth

Juno and the Paycock
Chichester Festival Theatre

THERE have been strong English revivals of O'Casey's *Juno and the Paycock*; but it takes an Irish company to show us that even Trevor Nunn's production in 1980, with Judi Dench *inimitably exuding exhaustion and* despair, was not all it might have been. Whether Niall Buggy, Tom Murphy and the other members of Joe Dowling's cast have dark ancestral memories of the Dublin tenements, I cannot say. But they left this audience believing they did, and can be expected to do the same at Bath, Cardiff and the other places they visit before they retread the boards of their native Gate Theatre.

Frank Flood's set gives the first clue, as it should. In the Boyles's flat, windows are boarded up, furniture is losing its stuffing and its legs, and plaster has fallen away. Poverty is here, and the prospect of starvation not far away. Jack Boyle's habit of strutting about like a peacock — or, in Buggy's performance, like Olly Hardy trundling forward his stomach as if it were a fully-laden wheelbarrow — is not a quaint eccentricity. His refusal to get a job threatens the family's survival; and his wife, Anita Reeves's Juno, is half-frantic with the worry.

Majestic endurance in the face of endless setbacks is this character's traditional note. Her daughter is impregnated and abandoned; the legacy on whose promise her family has got gravely into debt suddenly dematerialises; her son is killed by vengeful republicans; and still she goes on, still she thinks of others. Reeves fails to produce the necessary intensity of pain when she faces the last and worst of these disasters. But in other respects she is an admirable corrective to theatrical convention. She is not the goddess her name suggests, just a naturally warm, kindly woman oppressed by what O'Casey's stage-directions call "circumstance". Majestic endurance becomes something truer, a dogged struggle to endure.

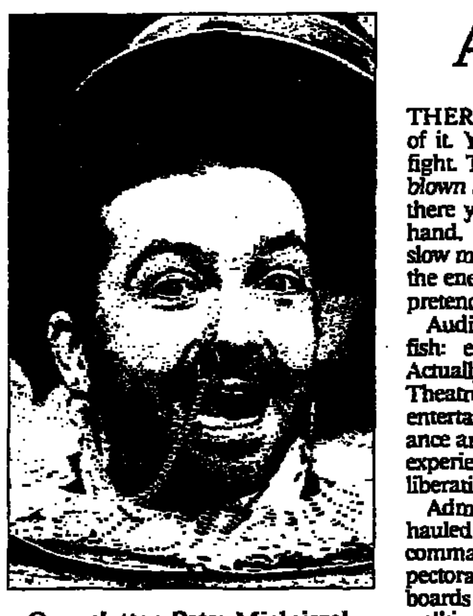
That unsentimentality is everywhere. "Circumstance" has brought brutishness in its wake, at least among the men. Buggy has a couple of dreamy, wistful moments, suggesting lost emotional possibilities beneath, but he is still the angriest Boyle I've seen. Murphy brings a sweaty, animal blend of fear and aggression to the role of his son Johnny. And his drinking pal Joxer, often a scallywag, has been more radically transformed. As Mark Lambert plays him, he is filthy without and filthier within. He stumbles about dropping things animal, vegetable or mineral from his lank, clotted hair; his best suit makes Cardboard City look like Jermyn Street; but it is the hypocrisy and hate that matter.

Here, unsentimentality goes too far. Indeed, the production as a whole probably unbalances O'Casey's blend of comedy and tragedy, hilarity and ugliness. Yet when Lambert's Joxer dances in venomous glee at the fall of the friend he has been flattering, or spits at him as he lies prone and helpless in his looted flat, it is hard not to applaud. We English may be suckers for Irish "charm". The Irish themselves take a harsher view.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

All aboard for a childish excursion

Pirates
Croydon Warehouse



On a platter: Peter Mielniczek as Private Lucky at Croydon

THERE is no wheedling your way out of it. You just have to stand up and fight. The alternative would be nasty: *blown away by a toy machine-gun*. So there you are, imaginary cutlasses in hand, swashbuckling across stage in slow motion, laying low children from the enemy side of the auditorium and pretending you are on the high seas.

Audience participation is an odd fish: exhilarating and excruciating. Actually, though, the Performance Theatre Company — a group of street entertainers — emanate such exuberance and warmth that the promenade experience of *Pirates* is far more liberating than embarrassing.

Admittedly, a couple of gentlemen hauled up to be galley slaves, and commanded to strip down to their pectorals, looked as if treading the boards was about as much fun as walking the plank. However, other spectators seemed keen to be press-ganged and the rest enjoyed every opportunity for a bit of punter's revenge, hurling wet sponges with abandon and wickedly suggesting Zs, Xs and Qs to hasten the actor's execution in a game of Hangman. The plot barely muddles through — Curt-Lees and his motley crew crusading against evil Captain Bloodbath while keeping an avaricious eye out for treasure — this is just an excuse for a medley of comic sketches, fights, songs, disco numbers and pastiches of Errol Flynn. The acting can be pretty atrocious and weaknesses in the dialogue phosphoresce when the dazzle of frenetic activity lapses.

Nevertheless, the rough-and-readiness of *Pirates* has its virtues, being in tune with the sea-faring life and adding spice to the production. Rob Ballard and Patrick Bramwells ad-lib *themselves into a captivating rapport* with children and adults alike. Bundling the audience around the auditorium — not to mention seating them on bottom-bruising slatted pallets — keeps them on their toes. Moreover Michael Pavelka's ship-like yet deliberately unship-shape design is an adventure playground of ropes, pulleys and ladders with a shop dummy for a figurehead and dustbins for cannons.

At base, *Pirates* is a panto, rudimentary yet succeeding through brio, hilarity and inventiveness. The show owes something to Tony Harrison's *Mysteries*: you end up dancing with the cast and remembering that theatre can be a joy, communal and festive. It is a cause for celebration.

KATE BASSETT

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ROCK ON FRIDAY: Timeless riffs at the Borderline ... Depeche Mode à la new mode ... Indian pioneers

Still got them old cosmic blues, mama

Fads come and go, but the 12-bar is forever — as a thriving British record label has shown. **David Sinclair** on the sound that spans the generations

DENZIL McNEELANCE



Woke up this morning, as I have done for the past 60 years, and the blues were round my head: Albert Collins gets his mojo working at the Borderline this week

When Virgin Records was taken over by EMI last year, a streamlining process was rapidly put into effect. In the ensuing night of the accountants' long knives, at least 80 acts were dropped from the 160 on the company's roster, and there were staff cuts throughout the organisation. Surprisingly, the only part of the company to emerge from this purge unscathed was Virgin's Pointblank label, a modest but evidently cost-efficient operation dedicated to the aggressive promotion and marketing of blues music.

The popularity of the blues was boosted by the emergence of Robert Cray as a million-selling act in the late 1980s, and again when John Lee Hooker struck platinum with his album *The Healer* in 1989. But news of the latest blues "revival" has been doing the rounds for the past 20 years or so, and such talk does little to explain, in reality, why Pointblank should be such a thriving concern.

Since it was set up in 1990, the label has released ten albums by acts such as Hooker, Johnny Winter, John Hammond, Pops Staples and Albert Collins. Of these, five have been nominated for various Grammys, and all have turned a healthy profit.

The label is the brainchild of John Wooler, a 34-year-old blues enthusiast and former musician who, when he was a young fan living in Dundee, used to sit in the bath of a Sunday evening with a notepad and pencil listening to the late Alexis Korner's programme on Radio 1, the only nationally broadcast show on which it was possible to hear the music he loved.

> 'The key to our success is that we can hit a realistic target with great consistency'

His feeling, as an A&R man working at Virgin Records in the late 1980s, was that blues artists were not being marketed properly, and that given the opportunity to hear this sort of music, there was a potentially substantial audience that would want to buy it.

Wooler's suggestion that Virgin might like to finance a blues label, with him at the helm, came just before the release (on Virgin) of Gary Moore's album *Still Got The Blues*, an essay in blues-rock guitar that proved a huge, if unlikely, success, eventually selling in excess of three million copies around the world. It gave Virgin enough confidence in the Pointblank concept to get the label off the ground.

"The key to selling blues records is spending a reasonable amount of money in the correct way," Wooler says. "The packaging and artwork must be of a high standard. But our budgets for actually making the albums are minimal compared to what you could spend on a major pop artist.

"It would be foolish for me to spend a fortune on Johnny Winter to try and turn him into something he's not, and I think that's the danger in the pop and rock field. Everyone's always hoping for the million-seller so they just pump everything in. The key to our success is that we can hit a realistic target with great consistency."

Underlining the sense of corporate commitment to the blues as a living, developing art form, Pointblank is currently staging a ten-day festival featuring all the acts that have recorded for the label, apart from Hooker and Walter "Wolfman" Washington. Organised in conjunction with the Borderline, in central London, the festival opened on Wednesday with an all-star package jamming (in more ways than one) on the tiny stage of the 260-capacity club.

It is often said that all the great blues records have already been made, and there was nothing at this event to suggest otherwise. The performers all played either slow laments or uptempo shuffles with only very occasional and slight deviations from the familiar three-chord, 12-bar pattern. But, with musicians ranging from the 77-year-old, Mississippi-born Staples to Vikki Kitson, the 16-year-old singer with Inverness-based Jumpin' The Gunn, there was a real sense of the music's resilience and its enduring appeal across the generations.

Despite the guitarist Michael Tolles and bassist Dywane Thomas — and the occasionally overwrought vocal contributions by Terry Evans (a regular in Ry Cooder's band) — the event naturally and inexorably turned into a showcase for a succession of implausibly excellent guitar soloists.

Andy Gunn of Jumpin' The Gunn was the first to shine in the spotlight, producing some impressively ferocious turns of speed. He was followed by Steve Roux, a 26-year-old prodigy from Southampton, with a pleasantly gruff voice and a blistering fret technique which betrayed the influence of 1960s-vintage Eric Clapton.

The Kinsey Report, featuring the Kinsey brothers Donald (guitar and vocals), Kenneth (bass) and Ralph (drums), were rather slapdash and it was a pity that, after their set, Larry McCray played his stretch with them instead of with the much-superior Memphis team. A great bull of a man, with a forceful yet precise and often ingenious playing style, McCray stamped a new authority on the proceedings, before giving way to Staples. A charming character, Staples rambled on about love being precious while stroking the strings of his heavily reverbed guitar. The impetus was lost.

But then Collins struck the stage like lightning. With his own band, including a three-man horn section, in tow, the 60-year-old Texan gave a superlatively taut display. The piercing, chipped-ice tone of his capo-clamped guitar and the rigorous attention to detail which made him such a formative influence on Cray, remain the principal hallmarks of his style. As Gunn, Roux, McCray and Kinsey all stepped up to duel with him, Collins remained effortlessly in command, a rugged campaigner and, like the blues itself, still a long way from the end of the road.

● Pointblank Borderline Blues Festival, sponsored by Red Stripe, is at the Borderline, London W2 (071-734 2095) until March 27 featuring: Albert Collins, tonight (two shows 7pm & 9pm); All-Star Jam, tomorrow; Pops Staples / Terry Evans / Steve Roux, Sunday; Staples / Terry Evans / Jumpin' the Gunn, Mar 22; Larry McCray, Mar 23-24; The Kinsey Report, Mar 25; John Hammond / Steve Roux, Mar 26; acoustic package featuring Hammond, Staples, McCray, Donald Kinsey, Roux and Jumpin' the Gunn, Mar 27. The Pointblank sampler CD Feel Like Going Home (VPBSM 2), featuring tracks by most of the above acts, is released this week.

RECORD REVIEWS: Some things old, new, borrowed and ... tartan

Souls in bondage gear

DEPECHE MODE
Songs Of Faith And Devotion
(Mute STUMM 106)
ALTHOUGH massively successful, Depeche Mode continue to thrive and develop in intriguing ways that have little in common with mainstream rock virtues.

The synth-pop tag is a thing of the past and, along with a range of magisterial keyboard sounds and percussive bombast, they are now coming up with highly engaging guitar parts on a regular basis, notably "Get Right With Me" and the single "I Feel You".

But however they choose to play it, their music and lyrics always seem to evoke the lush taste of forbidden fruit. As the album's title suggests, there is a lot of pseudo-religious imagery in evidence, bolstered on tracks like "Condemnation" by thin layers of gospel vocalese. But Martin Gore's lyrics, as sung by the increasingly saturnine David Gahan, are often deeply and darkly ambiguous: "So open yourself for me / Risk your health for me / If you want my love" (from "Judas") could conceivably be a call for unfettered spiritual devotion. It is definitely not a plea for safer sex.

The aura of hedonistic excess that clings to "Walking In my Shoes" ("The countless feasts laid at my feet") and "In Your Room" ("Will you leave me lying here... Your favourite slave") chimes perfectly with the menacing sensuality of their music. "One Caress", superbly arranged for voice and strings, knocks Elvis Costello and the Brodsky Quartet's efforts into a cocked hat.

P.M. DAWN: *The Bliss Album...? (Vibrations Of Love And Anger And The Ponderance Of Life And Existence)*
(Gee Street GEECD9/514 517)
AS THE duo responsible for the 1991 hit "Set Adrift On Memory Bliss" — a rap reconstruction of Spandau Ballet's hideous "True" — P.M. Dawn start at a disadvantage. The swirly graphics and flatulent title of their new album prompt further misgivings before the disc is even out of its case. And after one exposure to their hollowed-out version of Lennon and McCartney's "Norwegian Wood", the game is well and truly up.

For despite their dopey, mystical pretensions P.M. Dawn are hip-hop crooners, a supper club rap act suddenly and unaccountably fashionable. At their best, on "Looking Through Patient Eyes" (a sampled adaptation of George Michael's "Father Figure") or "So On And So On", they sound like a neutered version of Prince.

Occasionally they sample a neat instrumental accompaniment from sources unknown, notably the jazzy piano groove which underpins "Beyond Infinite Affections".

But more typical is the appropriation of backing tracks like that of Joni Mitchell's "I Had A King" to produce sentimental gloop of a high order.



Mixed offerings: (above) Depeche Mode's Martin Gore and David Gahan rock on; Bryan Ferry drones to a halt

RUNRIG
Amazing Things
(Chrysalis 3 22000)
IMPLAUSIBLY touted as "Scotland's most successful band ever", Runrig still have an unfortunate tendency to sound like a rootsier version of Big Country on tracks like "Amazing Things" and "Wonderful" and like a rockier version of Chris De Burgh on "Dream Fields" and "Move A Mountain".

An earnest, but poetic, declamation on the nuclear perils of Sellafield ("Move A Mountain") rubs shoulders with the massed Gaelic chant of "Pog Aon Oidhche Earraich"; bagpipes soar across a lumpy tom-tom tattoo in "Sraidean Na Roinn-Eorpa"; and a stately melody called "Canada" sounds as if it might have been inspired by one of those fast-cutting mini-travelogue ads.

BRYAN FERRY
Taxi
(Virgin 7 86998)
ALTHOUGH five-and-a-half years have elapsed since his last release, *Bête Noir*, the new Bryan Ferry album features only one of his own compositions and nine cover versions, reinforcing the impression that here is an artist who has nothing left to say.

A singer of unusually limited range, Ferry applies his supercilious warble with predictable results to songs ranging from Screaming Jay Hawkins's R 'n' B standard "I Put A Spell On You" to Nat King Cole's "Answer Me".

Among the worst embarrassments are a funky version of "Amazing Grace" and a reworking of the old Hollies hit "Just One Look" with little organ flourishes straight from a Saturday night variety club.

The album is redeemed by Robin Trower's elegant guitar playing (Trower also produces) and by two songs where Ferry seems to tap into an emotion that delves beyond the after-hours cocktail bar aesthetic, namely a haunting version of the Velvet Underground's "All Tomorrow's Parties" and a plaintive reworking of the Shirelles' "Will You Love Me Tomorrow". Ferry's solo career has long been a triumph of style over content, but *Taxi* is a feeble effort even by his standards.

DAVID SINCLAIR

TOP 10 ALBUMS

1	Coverdale Page	David Coverdale / Jimmy Page (EMI)
2	Are You Gonna Go My Way	Lenny Kravitz (Virgin USA)
3	Unplugged	Eric Clapton (Duck)
4	The Dark Side Of The Moon	Pink Floyd (EMI)
5	Ingenue	k.d. lang (Sire)
6	The Bodyguard	Various artists (Arista)
7	Ten Summoner's Tales	Sting (A&M)
8	Amazing Things	Runrig (Chrysalis)
9	Songs From The Rain	Hothouse Flowers (London)
10	Automatic For The People	R.E.M. (Warner Brothers)

List compiled by MRIB

NEW WAVES

An insider's guide to the Next Big Thing

SCATTERING punctuation through their name, **Fun'da'mental** clearly want us to approach them with a degree of confusion. Are they really fundamental, or just wild funseekers?

The names they have given themselves suggest at least a modicum of irony, even if the music is overpoweringly strident. Prince Haq Propagandhi, Bad Sha Laflaman, Man Tharoo Goldfinger and DJ Obeyo have built a following on the strength of two singles and some coruscating live performances.

The latest track is called "Wrath of the Blackman", backed with "Sister India". Quite obviously, this sort of thing is not going to propel them into the Radio 1 playlist, although John Peel is, as usual, flying the flag for the noisier agitators of the music business. The members of Fun'da'mental are Asian, released on Aki Qureshi's Nation label and hail from Leeds, Bradford and London. Unlike most Asian bands in the UK, they are not content with hopes of assimilation and a steady recognition of Asian music forms. Theirs is a non-stop assault, sampling Gandhi, Malcolm X and Enoch Powell.

Obviously inspired by Public Enemy, the hip-hop group that first made serious connections between political expression and rap, Fun'da'mental's arguments positively burst out of their vinyl grooves. The music also breaks down some of those self-imposed boundaries which have endured so long — rap, ragga, Indian table drumming, hip-hop drumbeats and Arabic melodic lines crowd each other for room.

Nobody could pretend that this is easy listening. To those who grew up thinking Indian music was a mystical, turn-off-your-mind thing, Fun'da'mental will come as a cold shower.

DAVID TOOP

FINAL CURTAIN: It will be the end of an era when Van Morrison plays the last concert at the Town & Country, London NW5 (071-284 0303) on Sunday. The venue, which will revert to its old name The Forum, is scheduled to reopen under new management within a month or so.

QUOTE: Concert promoter Carl Leighton-Pope explains why a male dancing troupe may prove a more reliable booking than a major rock act: "If I have a problem with a Chippendale, I send him home and get another. I can't do that with Mark Knopfler."

EP: The Mighty Mighty Bosstones: *Ska-Core, The Devil And More* (Mercury MER 386). Raucous, nine-piece band from Boston step forward with a bewildering fusion of ska and hardcore metal. Megadeth meets Madness.

BADGE: "Grunge Is Ghastly", handed out at the Milan collections by Suzy Menkes, fashion editor, *International Herald Tribune*.

TV: *Sounds Of The Seventies* (7.10pm, BBC2, tomorrow). "Smash It Up". The punk archives are raided for footage of the Clash, the Buzzcocks, the Jam, Magazine, Joy Division, Siouxsie and the Banshees and the Undertones among others. What, no Sex Pistols?

RADIO: Depeche Mode Day (Radio 1, today). An all-day celebration featuring tracks from *Songs Of Faith And Devotion* (reviewed left).

SEVEN DAYS

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MOTORING

Can the Mondeo outrun the Sierra?

Much rides on Ford's new 'world car' when it goes on sale next week. Its predecessor set European records. Vaughan Freeman reports

For every new car that is launched and acclaimed a motoring breakthrough, so the car it replaces fades from fashion, its image kept alive only by those owners who hope that it will become a classic. Thus it is with the Sierra, which faces the end next week when Ford introduces the much-trumpeted Mondeo.

For the past decade, the jelly-mould Sierra has been one of Europe's most popular cars; in Britain, it accounted for a quarter of all new cars bought each year in the medium-size saloon-car market.

Production of the Sierra at Genk in Belgium ended early this year to make way for the Mondeo and the last few models are now on sale at big discounts as dealers try to sell them to clear showroom space for the Mondeo.

The Sierra, which became a family favourite, has been ousted by a young pretender in the same way as the Sierra in the second half of 1982 replaced the once-bestselling Cortina range of cars and estates. Then, the Sierra, with its rounded aerodynamic shape, was seen as a daring innovation by Ford. Some diehard Cortina buffs, however, said that the Sierra was too rounded.

Such criticism did nothing to halt Sierra sales. In 1983, the first full year of sales, Ford sold 160,000 Sierras in Britain, capturing 32 per cent of the medium-car sector and almost 10 per cent of total UK new car sales. Only last year, a full decade after the car was introduced, with the Sierra ageing and buyers anticipating the arrival of the Mondeo, did sales dip for the first time below 80,000.

The Sierra's design confirmed the five-door hatchback shape as a sensible option for family life, as well as for company drivers piling suits and sales samples on board. The aerodynamic shape meant the car was slipped through the air with 30 per cent more ease than the Cortina it replaced. This cut wind noise inside the cabin and made for good fuel consumption. Other sensible features included bump-proof moulded-plastic bumpers.

The Sierra also won approval from the critics. It was named European Car of the Year in 1983, and is still the only car to have twice won the British Design Council Award. And it attracted many accolades from motoring magazines and drivers' organisations.

> The Cossie was for motorists who put high performance above all else

When the Sierra ventured into auto sport, it cleaned up there, too. The Sierra RS Cosworth, introduced in 1986, won the world and European touring car championships and more than 200 rallies and 50 national championships. The "Cossie", capable of 150mph and 0 to 60mph in six seconds, became the best-value, high-performance package of the 1980s. At the same time, it became a prime target for car thieves, ram-raiders and so-called joy riders. Police forces decided that the car most suitable for pursuing a stolen Cosworth was ... a Cosworth.

On the streets, the outrageously styled Cossie was the car for motorists who put performance above all else. A massive aircraft-size rear wing, aggressive cooling vents in the bonnet, flared wheel arches and low-profile racing wheels, with great acceleration and a top speed usually associated with exotic and vastly more expensive Italian cars, made it a winner.



Family favourite: despite doubts about its shape, the Sierra became a big seller. Below, a GLX version of its successor, the Mondeo

The Sierra range became Everyman's car, available in three-door hatch, five-door hatch, four-door with boot once the Sapphire saloon was introduced, plus estate car and four-wheel drive versions, with a range of engines from 1.6-litre petrol to 2.3 diesel and 2.9 V6 petrol.

In the mid 1980s, Sierra sales consistently represented a third of all Ford cars sold, despite aggressive competition from the Vauxhall Cavalier. Ford fought back with the four-door Sapphire in 1987, the year when the two millionth Sierra was produced. The Sapphire helped Ford's Sierra jewel to notch up a record 176,000 sales in 1989, the car's best year. By 1990, though, the new-shape Cavalier began to eat into Sierra's dominance and sales fell to 130,000 in 1990, 94,000 in 1991 and 78,000 last year.

In all, Ford sold more than 2.5 million Sierras throughout Europe, almost 1.3 million of them in the United Kingdom. At its peak, Sierra was claiming one-sixth of all medium-class car sales in Europe, making it even more popular than the Cortina. Now Ford waits to see whether the Mondeo can emulate its predecessors.



The AA and RAC are watching new low-cost recovery schemes that aim to benefit motorists who take care of their cars

Breakdowns charged at going rate

Figures released this month by the Automobile Association and the Royal Automobile Club show that most motorists break down because of their own stupidity in ignoring a developing fault or skimping on maintenance.

In these recessionary times, the motoring organisations suspect that cash-strapped motorists are increasingly using their breakdown and recovery services as a cheap form of on-the-road maintenance, whose frequent call-outs are in effect being subsidised by those who do care for their cars.

Already, the AA and the RAC have been forced to penalise members who use their services regularly to keep their cars going rather than because they need help in a real emergency. At the AA, members who call-out rescue teams four times in a year get a warning letter; after six call-outs, they are charged £45. At the RAC, membership charges double after more than six call-outs a year.

Now Europ Assistance, which, with 12.5 million members, says it is Europe's biggest, has inaugurated a cut-price breakdown service that benefits motorists who take care of their car, avoiding preventable breakdowns because of minor faults.

The most obvious difference between the service, which is called Select, and rivals is the cost. Membership for one car costs £35 for a year, £65 for two years, and £95 for three years; membership for two cars over three years works out at £130. That compares with a basic cost of £93, which includes a £12 joining fee for a year's AA membership, and £94 (including £12 joining fee) for the RAC's New Recovery Scheme.

Paul Monks, the general manager of Europ Assistance, says: "Our research shows that a large number of breakdowns are probably avoidable and are due to lack of driver care and maintenance. Some 2.4 million people in the United Kingdom have let their breakdown and recovery memberships lapse over the past three years to look for a lower-priced product.

"We believe the majority are subsidising the rest, and paying annually for a service they use only every three years on average."



Jump start: breakdown services are limiting "free" call-outs

Select uses a network of 1,500 approved garage recovery operators to provide roadside assistance, towing and relay home, but only if the car has suffered a genuine breakdown a mile or more from the member's home. If the fault is something like a flat tyre or lost keys, a £35 call-out fee is charged. Mr Monks says that response to the scheme has exceeded expectations and the established organisation are interested.

David Armstrong, an RAC spokesman, says: "We believe people are not so worried about the engine giving up on them entirely, but more about how to change a wheel on a busy motorway or an isolated rural road. However, for people who perhaps know a bit about cars, like how to change a fan-belt and a spare wheel, perhaps there is a place in the market for Select and we will watch how the scheme goes."

Rayner Peet, a spokesman for the AA, says: "We will look at it, but we believe there is a real need for the kind of service we offer, which does cover the 10 most frequent causes of breakdown. We take each case and consider it individually, and if there is a persistent fault in a member's car, we try to do something about it."

Another operator in the breakdown and recovery business, National Breakdown, has its own scheme covering major mechanical breakdown only, which costs £24 a year. However, a spokeswoman, Heather Yaxley, says that other services, which range up to £72.50 for full cover, aim to cover every member whether their breakdown is their own fault or not. "Whether a member's car has let them down, or whether they have let themselves down, we like to offer a full service. Everyone makes the occasional silly mistake," Ms Yaxley says.

On April 1, National Breakdown launches the cash-back scheme, which it hopes will boost member confidence as well as improve efficiency within the organisation. The organisation will give a £10 refund to members who think they have had to wait too long for help. The cash is payable if the National Breakdown team arrives just a minute after the time agreed over the telephone when the member first called for help.

Since the company this year expects to respond to one million calls for assistance, the bill could be a large one if it all goes wrong, but National Breakdown is confident.

It may be no less aggravating to break down in future, but at least it should prove less expensive.

VAUGHAN FREEMAN

Just look at that animal!

THE Jekyll and Hyde transmutation of motorists is more than an urban myth — according to new research, it really does happen. *Vaughan Freeman writes.* Normally inoffensive people turn into animals at the wheel, the survey says.

The kind of aggression exhibited by wild animals breaks through the patina of civilisation that in humans is supposed to keep the ferocity in check and is a prime cause of road accidents.

Every day, 13 people die and 800 people are injured on Britain's roads. For every injury accident, there are another ten more damage-only crashes. A major contributor to this carnage, says the report, by psychology professors at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne, for the AA's Foundation for Road Safety Research, is our animal instinct. The survey found that motorists showed the same desire to dominate the pack and to defend their territory as animals in the jungle.

The survey says that instead of deciding when it is safe, for instance, to overtake or pull out, many drivers instead rely on animal instinct unconsciously and "challenge" other cars for dominance in the same way as animals challenge one another to move up the pecking order.

The survey "finds clear parallels between the behaviour of drivers competing for road space and territorial defence in the animal kingdom. It is necessary for only a few drivers to behave aggressively to protect what they regard as their territory for many others to feel threatened".

This is why, as soon as pedestrians climb into a car, other pedestrians are ignored. "Behind the wheel", motorists take little account of pedestrians because people at the kerbside pose the least threat and are therefore at the bottom of the road-users' hierarchy of dominance."

Speeding, and the belief of most drivers that they are all potential Nigel Mansells while everyone else is incompetent, also contribute to accident rates.

The report says most drivers admit they speed regularly, but few admit that it is dangerous. "One particular difficulty stems from the belief of drivers that they possess above-average driving skills. Even if people can be convinced that speeding is dangerous, they may still conclude that it is only dangerous only for other people."

This car can do 116mpg

At least, it can when a featherlight foot is controlling the pedals

ROAD TEST

Citroën's AX range of cars, especially the diesel variants, were never thirsty vehicles. But now the French manufacturer has made them even more frugal, claiming an extraordinary fuel consumption of 116mpg. *Vaughan Freeman writes.*

The latest version of the AX 14D Echo now uses Michelin MXN "green" tyres specially developed to offer less road resistance and higher gear ratios to cut fuel consumption.

These improvements now feature throughout the AX range. Not every motorist is going to be able to achieve the record-breaking 116mpg in an AX, a figure achieved earlier this year by a driver with years of experience in squeezing the last mile from a fuel tank.

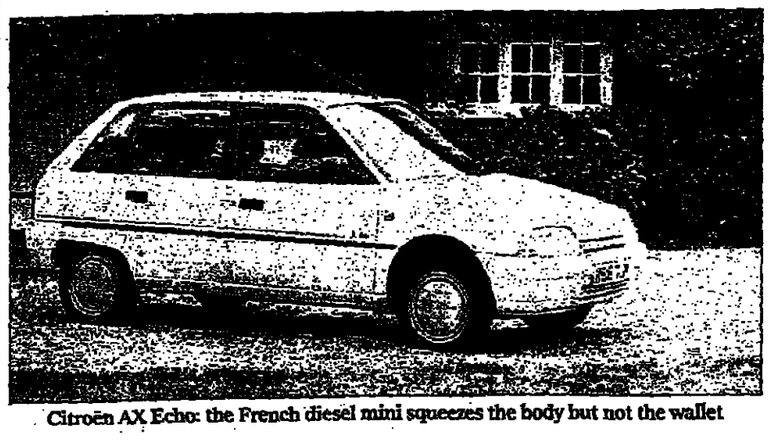
However, with its 9.5-gallon tank, and overall consumption hovering above 60mpg, even a moderate foot on the accelerator might enable an AX diesel driver to travel from Land's End to John-o'-Groat's without refuelling. When I took collection of my AX it had a full tank; two days and 140 miles later the gauge still registered full — and I had no reason to think it was broken.

Apart from its diesel engine, tyres and higher gearing, what helps to make the AX economical is its size. The hatchback, just over 11ft long, comes in three and five-door form.

Being more than 6ft 4in tall, I am perhaps not the ideal driver for such a car. My head rode at a tilted angle snugly against the roof lining while my knees jutted go-kart style alongside the steering wheel. Another small car, the newly launched Vauxhall Corsa is just a few inches longer and taller than the AX yet its designers have created more interior space. The AX's equipment level, however, is good, including stereo radio and cassette, clock, lights on warning buzzer and low fuel-warning light, as well as sunroof and tinted windows.

A nice practical touch is evident in the door panel, where there is a special cubby-hole, big enough to take a large bottle of water and within easy reach, which prevents the hunt-the-drink around the floor of the car while you are on the move.

If good fuel economy is important to you, there seems little point in going any further than your nearest Citroën dealer for a diesel AX. If you have other requirements, such as a need for head and leg room and an aversion to having to uncoil from a car rather than simply step out, you will have to look further.



Citroën AX Echo: the French diesel mini squeezes the body but not the wallet

Citroën AX 14D Echo

Engine: four-cylinder 1360cc diesel.
Performance: 53hp at 5,000rpm through fwd and five-speed manual gearbox: top speed 96mph, 0-60mph in 13.2sec; 85.6mpg at 56mph, 63mpg in urban driving.
Price: £7,775

ROADWISE

Boost for electric

WITH petrol prices now at their highest levels, thanks to the Budget, the pre-occupation manufacturers have in perfecting electric vehicles increasingly makes sense.

There are now more than 1,000 electric vehicles on Japan's roads, ranging from buses used by leading hotels, to waste-collection trucks, and this week Nissan announced it had opened re-charging stations for its electric cars in Tokyo and Kanagawa. The stations can give cars a power boost in six minutes and some battery vehicles can be fully charged in 15 minutes.

Honda's new tune

☐ HONDA today introduces its all-new British-built Concerto. Prices start at £11,495 for the 1.5i, to £15,395 for the 16-valve 1.6SE. All Concertos have power steering, central locking, electric glass sunroof, stereo and adjustable steering wheel, plus alarm system.

Exhaust cuts

☐ VAUXHALL is trying to win back custom lost to speedy high-street repair centres. Vauxhall's 463 dealers guarantee all-inclusive prices throughout. Prices, which include VAT, all clamps, brackets and fittings, as well as labour by Vauxhall mechanics, range from £74.99 for a full exhaust system on a 1-litre Nova.

On course

☐ AUDI has announced new dates and venues for its acclaimed high-performance driving course, starting in May. With even the most modest of family saloons now possessing performance which often far out-strips the abilities of their drivers, such courses, which cost from £350, make increasing sense.

As well as classroom instruction, hands-on tuition is given on British racing circuits. For further details, contact Audi on 0908 601198.

Alarming trend

☐ AS A response to increased amounts of car crime, Peugeot has introduced a new ultrasonic alarm system for its 405. The alarm can be fitted in 45 minutes and costs £49.

Famous 5

☐ BMW has unveiled its new eight-cylinder engines to power its 3-litre and 4-litre Series 5 cars. The new engines offer more power but better fuel consumption. Prices range from £29,750, to £33,950 for the automatic-only 540i, which has a top speed of 150mph and a 0-60mph time of 7sec.

New Favourits

☐ SKODA, now benefiting from improvements introduced by VW, its new parent company, has launched its range of Favorit cars. There are five models, three hatchback versions and two estates.

The range, says Skoda, benefits from 550 improvements including new front grill, wheels, paintwork, carpets, instruments and dashboard. Prices range from £4,850 to £6,525.

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2 Rolls Royce Silver Cloud III H. J. Mulliner Tourers, 1964 models – Royal Claret in colour.
3 Rolls Royce Silver Wraith LWB Limousines, 1958 models – Black in colour.
All bodies from the H.J. Mulliner Coachworks.

The Landrovers are Royal Claret in colour and both 1954 series 1 models. They were used for ceremonial occasions and have very low odometer readings.

For more information on these rare collectors' vehicles, inspection details and tender documentation telephone David Lynch at Aussales on International Direct Dialing: 010 612 414 8239 or Fax your details to 010 612 414 8259. Tenders will be faxed or posted on request.

Tenders will be accepted until 2 p.m. (local time Sydney) on Wednesday 14 April, 1993 in Sydney, Australia.

DASFLEET AUSSALES

Mansell at ease in the madding crowd

Oliver Holt sees the Formula One world champion thrive on the pressure as his IndyCar debut nears



Focus of attention: Mansell, the favourite to win on Sunday, perches on his car tyre for the massed ranks of photographers in Australia

NIGEL Mansell began the build up to his IndyCar debut at Surfers Paradise in earnest yesterday, torn between the desire to make a fresh start and a lingering preoccupation with his erstwhile Formula One rivals.

As Australia's glitzy Gold Coast geared itself for the opening race of the season on Sunday, Mansell enthused over the attitudes of the teams, drivers and officials connected with the American code. He was relishing the fierce competition he expected from more established drivers, who may resent the unprecedented attention he has been receiving from media and public alike.

"There's no question I'm a marked man," Mansell said. "Everybody and their dog wants to beat me. There will be no favours and I know that I am going to be in some situations where I'm going to be surprised at what some people might or might not do. What they do not realise is that I'm already waiting for it."

But then Mansell, 38, the first reigning Formula One world champion to defect to IndyCar, juxtaposed the two codes and pointed out the shortcomings of grand prix racing by stressing some of IndyCar's merits. "What is so different here is that there are so many drivers able to win," he said.

"Come Sunday, there will be 19 cars on the grid that have exactly the same chassis as mine and the regulations are such that nobody can run away. The slightest incident, and the yellow flag comes out and if somebody has got a 20-second lead, they come straight back."

He renewed the criticism of Alain Prost that began with his scathing commentary during the South African grand prix on Sunday for Australian television. He said that Williams' new car was a second quicker than that which he had driven last year, and that he had been taken aback by the Frenchman's winning performance. "It's obviously a surprise to me that he did not go quicker, but he got the job done," Mansell said.

In one breath, he stressed the importance of being "totally focused" on preparing for his race on the narrow, winding street circuit that runs through the middle of this brash seaside resort. "For any sportsman to be at the top of his game, he cannot be going off at a tangent. I have just got to be incredibly single-minded," he said.Then, he was studiously avoiding ruling himself out of a temporary return to Formula One, even before he knew that a disciplinary hearing in Paris had cleared Prost of bringing motor racing into disrepute.

Eventually, after saying it was "regrettable" that only five cars finished at Kyalami and that IndyCar was more attractive to spectators and sponsors, Mansell, who will be driving for the Newman-Haas team, refused to answer more questions about the racing fraternity he has left behind and eulogised about his new sport.

"In this series, everyone works together. The bonding between all the officials and constructors is exactly what it should be. There are less daggers in the back and fewer people trying to knife you because everyone is positive and complimentary about each other. I have probably spoken to more drivers away from the circuit than I did in ten years of Formula One. In Formula One, they are too wrapped up in doing their own thing to come up for air."

Mansell identified the main difference between IndyCar and Formula One as the heaviness of his new car. His British-made Lola is 500lbs heavier than a grand prix car and takes longer to stop because it has steel brakes rather than the carbon fibre ones favoured in Formula One.

"You can attack a corner in a Formula One car because the response time is very quick and if you get it wrong then you can jiggle it about a bit. But if you were to do that in an Indycar, you would probably hit the wall. You can't get it back and have another go because the weight of the car is making it slide."

Mansell faces formidable competition on Sunday — Mario Andretti, his teammate, Emerson Fittipaldi, the double Formula One world champion, Bobby Rahal, last year's IndyCar champion, Al Unser Jr and one of the race favourites, Scott Goodyear, of Canada, are all in the field.

If Mansell wins, he will match the achievement of Graham Hill, the only newcomer to triumph on his debut, and that in the Indianapolis 500 of 1966. Hill competed in a handful of races after that and failed to win again. "In the history of this sport," Mansell said, "no one from England has actually come across here and been consistently successful, come over and tried to win a series. My motivation is to break new ground. My motivation, ultimately, is to win."

Alain Prost was cleared of bringing motor racing into disrepute yesterday after offering his apologies to Fisa, the world governing body of motor sport. The organisation's president, Max Mosley, said that the former world champion would not be disciplined for remarks critical of Fisa officials attributed to him in an interview with a French magazine.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Gilford in touch with seventh heaven

ENGLAND'S cricketers may be at rock bottom, but the country's golfers continue to fly the flag with distinction. The count so far is six victories in eight European events this season and David Gilford shot a 65, seven under par, yesterday to be in third place after the first round of the Portuguese Open at Vila Sol. Jorge Berendt, of Argentina, leads following a ten-birdie 63 — his best round in Europe — while Jesper Parnevik, from Sweden, had a 64.

Gilford made a successful defence of the Moroccan Open title last month and his consistency has taken him into twelfth place in the Ryder Cup points table. He thinks he still needs to win another £180,000 by the end of August to make a second successive appearance against the Americans, but said: "If I carry on playing like I am, it will be easy. For the first 12 holes, I played perfect golf really — I did not look like dropping a shot."

A 20-foot eagle putt at the 497-yard 11th swept him to seven under and he then struck a 100-yard pitch to within a foot of the hole on the 556-yard 14th. But, needing one more birdie to tie the lead, he three-putted at the 16th.

Ingleby returns

GOLF: Bryan Ingleby, an outstanding undergraduate captain of Cambridge in 1991, returns to the team in the capacity of junior treasurer for the University match against Oxford at Hoylake today and tomorrow. Playing off plus one, he is the highest-ranked player on either side. The team is led by Michael Uzielli, son of an eminent Oxford captain and the British women's champion, Stuart Ritchie captains the Oxford team in what looks an evenly matched event.

DRAW: Foursomes (Oxford players first): * R A Sanders (Merton) and S R Seman (Merton) v M R Uzielli (Pembroke, captain) and B S E Ingleby (Fitzwilliam); *J Elridge (St Catherine's) and P J Hill (Exeter) v J Huclecn (Christ's) and O H Turnbull (Clare); M B Jannaway (Brasenose) and B R Payne (St Hugh's) v W H D Moore (Darwin) and S J Anthony (Queens'); *S M Ritchie (Christ Church, captain) and M S P Benks (Lady Margaret Hall) v F R McCoig (Jesus) and *J S Young (Churchill); *R D Merrett (St Anne's) and R S D Guest-Gornall (Keble) v *M M Williamson (Fitzwilliam) and A J Murray (Jesus). * denotes a blue

Milton doubtful

EQUESTRIANISM: John Whitaker's Everest Milton, who has injured a leg, will almost certainly miss the Paris World Cup show, which begins today. Whitaker, who will ride Everest Grannusch if Milton does not recover, is competing with his younger brother, Michael, and Nick Skelton. On Sunday, the show hosts the penultimate qualifying round for the final of the Volvo World Cup in Gothenburg next month. The World Cup, which they won in 1990 and 1991, has been Whitaker's aim with Milton, even though the rider is nineteenth in the Western European rankings.

VOLVO WORLD CUP: 1, L Beerbaum (Ger), 63pts; 2, H Luther (Ger), 61; 3, J Lansink (Holl), 59. British positions: 18, M Whitaker, 34; 19, J Whitaker, 33; 24, N Skelton, 25.

Skips lift Ireland

BOWLS: Outstanding performances from the rinks skipped by Sammy Allen and Noel Graham lifted Ireland to a surprising 118-114 victory over England in the British Isles home international series at Swansea yesterday. Allen scored five shots against Steve Halmai over the last two ends and Graham collected a five off the penultimate end against David Ward, then added a vital single on the 21st.

England's downfall was caused by the failure of their normally reliable back-end players to convert adverse heads on the fast Swansea carpet. England, who were expecting today's encounter with Scotland to be for the title, now need to beat the holders to avoid the wooden spoon.

White crushes Wattana

SNOOKER: Jimmy White produced arguably his best form of the season to beat James Wattana, the local favourite, 5-1 in the quarter-finals of the Asian Open in Bangkok yesterday (Phil Yates writes). White, who had lost 12 of his previous 19 meetings with Wattana, won the opening two frames with runs of 59 and 65 before recovering from a 50-0 deficit to win the third frame on the pink. He moved 4-0 ahead with a 109 break in the next, Wattana took the fifth, but a run of 97 in the sixth gave White victory. He plays Darren Morgan in the semi-finals today. Morgan beat Willie Thorne 5-2, while Dave Harold, of Stoke, also reached the semi-finals with a 5-3 win over Paul Tanner.

Runners opt out

ATHLETICS: Neither Curtis Robb nor David Grindley, finalists at the Olympic Games in Barcelona last year, will compete in the World Student Games in Buffalo from July 8 to 18, despite an announcement that athletes who do will be exempt from Britain's world championship trials, which take place at the same time. "The week would be time better spent training for the world championships," Robb, who was sixth in the Olympic 800 metres, said. "David is going to have to defend his status on several occasions this summer and the World Student Games would be an additional complication." Chris Butler, who coaches Grindley, said. Grindley reached the Olympic 400 metres.

French revolution rewards Berbizier

Peter Bills traces the triumphal progress of the national rugby coach, who has survived a palace uprising by the old guard in France

SOMEHOW it is classically French: a palace revolution is staged, but the rebels are thwarted. Their target, Pierre Berbizier, the tottering French national rugby union coach, survives, his tenuous hold on the post only made secure by the backing of Bernard Lapasset, the federation president.

The defeated rebels, among them former French stalwarts including Robert Paparemborde and Jean-Pierre Rives, were forced to resign. A few months later, the target of their coup leads his country to the five nations' championship. Berbizier has not just proved himself a survivor; he has confounded the sceptics.

This imagined scenario will become reality tomorrow unless the stumbling Welsh surprise France at the Parc des Princes in Paris. If Wales submit then Berbizier will be entitled to a wry grin. But that is not his way.

Ask this thoughtful, intense man of the Hautes Pyrénées, if a French title win does not vindicate his position and he says decisively: "No, if France wins the tournament, the praise is due to the players, not the coach. They do the work on the field and we must take our hats off to them." But there is reason to applaud Berbizier. France, flouting tradition, have chosen the same XV for every match of the championship (Didier Camberabero was picked at stand-off for this Saturday but a broken bone in his hand keeps him out; Franck Mesnel replaces him). It is only the second time in history that France, have kept faith with the same team.

Yet it was not a premeditated plan, Berbizier said. "We took things match by match and the players did what was asked of them. It gave us satisfaction, but the whole year was not perfect. Yet we made important progress and it was interesting to see these players rise to the challenge and, therefore, it was right to keep with them to the end.

"There were too many changes before, but that was because France were in a period of restructuring. In France there is a lot of potential. There are very good club players, but there is still a gap between the standard of the French championship and international level. Some cannot bridge this gap but until you watch them at international level, you cannot judge them." The French have used England as a benchmark of their progress this season. "Winning the trophy is not the most important thing. If we beat Wales, it will be merited only because I think we have found an equality with England. I think the levels between England and France are very close now, whereas last year England were clearly superior. Next year we should be able to beat them."

Berbizier thinks the team has made interesting progress. But says: "Clearly there have been problems in this championship in adapting to the new rules."

To tame France at Parc des Princes is difficult: to subdue them in springtime with the championship almost in their grasp, will require a Herculean effort from Wales.

Hoch fails to make birdie chances tell

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES IN ORLANDO

FLORIDA did not live up to its billing as the sunshine state on the first day of the Nestlé Invitational at Bay Hill yesterday. It was overcast and gloomy and there was enough dampness and breeze to make a long course play even longer. Some of the early starters could not even reach the first hole, a par four of 441 yards, with a drive and a three-wood.

Rick Fehr, born in Seattle, where the sun does not feature much in the tourist blurb, showed no signs of coming to terms with the conditions on the first nine, but he came home in 31, five under par, to take the lead with a round of 69, three under.

Bernhard Langer and Scott Hoch finished on 71, with Jack Nicklaus, back at Bay Hill for the first time since 1984, on 72 after dropping shots at the last two holes. Hoch, who will be remembered as the shadowy figure who missed that itty-bitty putt on the first extra hole at Augusta and lost the Masters, to Nick Faldo, at the next, was three under after six holes. He slipped back to level par, but had a birdie two at the 14th and, after the disruption of shoulder surgery last year, was just happy to be back.

A member at Bay Hill, Hoch was mildly annoyed that he did not make the most of four birdie chances in the last seven holes, including the 18th, where he hit his second shot, with a two-iron, to 13 feet.

EARLY LEADING FIRST-ROUND SCORES (US unless stated): 69: R Fehr. 71: S Hoch, B Langer (Ger), K Triplett. 72: B Gardner, Joe Ozaki (Japan), B Kratzert, J Nicklaus. 73: S Simpson, E Humenik, D Hart, G Sauers. 74: C Parry (Aus), L Roberts, M Sullivan, L Rinker.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 44

DIAPIR

(b) An anticlinal fold in which overlying rocks are pierced by a mobile rock core, from the Greek *diapeirein* to pierce through: "A peculiar characteristic is the tendency of the Miocene beds, and especially the salt formation, to pierce through the overlying rocks at certain points on anticlinal axes, thus giving rise to a structure so common that Mrazec has coined the phrase diapir fold to describe it."

TAMBOOKIE

(a) The Tembu people: "The Ama-Tembu nation, popularly called Tambookies. We were not sure but that the Tambookies would join the confederacy against us."

MOSHAV

(c) In Israel, a group of agricultural smallholdings worked co-operatively, adapted from the modern Hebrew *möshäbh*: "A moshav is a village devoted to agricultural pursuits and run on co-operative lines. It is not as austere as some of the kibbutzim."

PULVINO

(b) A cushion cap, impost-block or dosseret, architectural jargon from the Italian *pulvino* a pillow: "On the capital they placed a block of stone spreading upwards from the width of the column where it rested on the abacus, to the width of the wall above, and from the top of this stone they sprang their arch, of the full thickness of the wall. This dosseret, pulvino, or impost block is an entirely novel feature."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

The unprotected state of the white queen on c3 is the key. 1 ... Re2! wins material as 2 Qxf6 is met by 2 ... Rxe1+.

FOR THE RECORD

BADMINTON

WEMBLEY: Yonex All-England championships: Men's singles: Second round: J Crisson (Swe) bt K Hansen (Den), 15-13, 15-3. T Stuer-Lauridsen (Den) bt A Antropov (Russ), 15-2, 15-1. F Permadi (Indo) bt J Tuvesson (Swe), 15-10, 15-13. L Jun (China) bt G Sidhu (India), 15-1, 15-3. P Hoyer Larsen (Den) bt O Pongratz (Ger), 15-5, 15-8. H Susanto (Indo) bt P Rasmussen (Den), 15-10, 18-17. J Supranoto (Indo) bt S Buffer (Engl), 15-6, 15-1. H Arbi (Indo) bt H Zhilan (China), 15-10, 15-8. D Hall (Eng) bt M Hansen (Den), 6-15, 15-6, 15-2. R Sidek (Malaysia) bt P Jonas (Fin), 15-10, 15-2. K Hai-Kyun (Kor) bt P Knowles (Engl), 14-17, 15-0, 15-10. Foo Kok Keong (Malaysia) bt A Nielsen (Eng), 15-10, 6-15, 15-9. A Budi Kusuma (Indo) bt C Brul (Holl), 15-11, 15-6. P Sung-Woo (Kor) bt G Cheng (China), 15-6, 15-1. P Andreasson (Swe) bt S Kukasemkij (Thai), 15-7, 15-18, 12-9, ret. A Wiranata (Indo) bt D Jiong (China), 15-11, 15-6

Third round: Stuer-Laundsen bt Permadi, 15-4, 17-14. Women's singles: First round: C Sun-hwa (Kor) bt J Mann (Eng), 11-3, 11-1. S Yuhong (China) bt J Muggeridge (Eng), 11-4, 11-1. Second round: T Berg (Den) wo P Plungwech (Thai), scr; B Soon-Ryun (Kor) bt S-An Deng (Can), 11-1, 11-2, Y Zhaoying (China) bt J Santoso (Indo), 11-8, 11-4. C Xiao Qing (Swe) bt R Pyung-Hee (Kor), 12-11, 11-5, S Kusumawardhani (Indo) bt M Hoogland (Holl), 8-11, 11-1, 11-5, S Susanti (Indo) bt D Julien (Can), 11-7, 11-5, Z Abdullah (Sing) bt A Nielsen (Eng), 11-6, 12-9, L Heung-Soon (Kor) bt N Jordan (Eng), 11-5, 11-3. C Martin (Den) bt H Ning (China), 11-7, 11-5, S Jaroensiri (Thai) bt H Dossing (Den), 11-1, 11-5. T Juuhong (China) bt L Stuer-Laundsen (Den), 11-3, 11-4. Y Yan (China) bt A Miyamura (Japan), 12-9, 12-10. L Yuhong (China) bt T Dineen (Eng), 12-9, 12-11. C Magnusson (Swe) bt C Eun-Hwa (Kor), 12-10, 12-10; F Smith (Engl) bt M Mark (Den), 11-2, 11-4; M Timur (Indo) bt M Andrievskaya (Russ), 11-5, 11-4. Third round: Susanti bt Magnusson, 11-8, 12-11; L Xiao Quing (Swe) bt Johansen, 7-11, 11-4, 11-2, Juuhong bt Timur, 11-4, 11-5

BASKETBALL

LEICESTER: Blue Circle All-Star match: North 160 (Thomas 23, Waldron 21, Treasvant 20). South 141 (Lloyd 32, K Brown 20, Clawson 19).

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Dallas 102, Orlando 98; Indiana 114, Milwaukee 91. New Jersey 114, Atlanta 93. Washington 94, Philadelphia 89. Utah 104, Detroit 80. Phoenix 129, Portland 117; San Antonio 101, Los Angeles Lakers 100

BOWLS

SWANSEA: Men's home international series: Wales 120, England 106. Rink scores (Wales skips first): S Wilshire 21, F Bransfield 15, J Price 24, A Allcock 17, L Webley 25, D Ward 18, R Weale 18, A Thomson 20. D Wilkins 18, J Bell 21, G Jones 14, S Halmai 15. Ireland 118, England 114 (Irish skips first): S Wylie 17, J Bell 17; S Allen 25, S Halmai 14, H Elliott 18, P Bransfield 13; D Corfield 20, A Allcock 23, N Graham 23, D Ward 21, A Murphy 15, A Thomson 28

PERTH: Women's home international series: Ireland 118, Wales 112. Rink scores (Ireland skips first): F Elliott 21, M Pomeroy 21; M Dunlop 21, R Jones 20, E Bell 19, B Morgan 21, B Cameron 14, A Dainton 19, M Johnston 26. J Ackland 7; M Mallon 17, J Davies 24.

BOXING

CAMPIONE D'ITALIA: European Super-middleweight title: Ray Close (GB) bt Vincenzo Nardiello (It), rsc, 10th rnd.

FOOTBALL

INTERNATIONAL MATCH: Brazil 2, Poland 2 (in Ribarao Preto).

BRAZILIAN LEAGUE: Group A: Ituano 1, Ponte Preta 2; Portuguesa 4, Rio Branco 3

Late results on Wednesday

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS LEAGUE: Group A: Marseilles 6, CSKA Moscow 0; Rangers 2, Bruges 1. Group B: AC Milan 1, Porto 0, Gothenburg 3, Eindhoven 0.

EUROPEAN CUP WINNERS' CUP: Quarter-final: Second leg: Steaua Bucharest (Rom) 1, Antwerp (Bel) 1 (agg 1-1 Antwerp win on away goal).

UEFA CUP: Quarter-final: Second leg: Juventus 3, Bordeaux 0 (agg 4-0).

FAI HARP LAGER CUP: Second round, second replay: Limerick 1, Home Farm 0

BASS IRISH CUP: Quarter-final replay: Distillery 1, Ards 4

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Blackburn 1, Notts County 0; Bolton 4, Barnsley 1; Newcastle 5, Aston Villa 0. Second: Sheffield Wednesday 3, Chesham 2; Grimsby 0, Scunthorpe 0; Middlesbro 3, Leeds 2; Bradford 0, Port Vale 1, Preston 0, Wigan 0, Huddersfield 1

NEVILLE OVENDEN COMBINATION: First division: Brighton 2, Swindon 2; Charlton 0, Wimbledon 4; Plymouth 1, Millwall 1. Combined results: Southampton 0, Crystal Palace 0. Second division: Bristol Rovers 2, Swansea 1, Yeovil 0, Cardiff 3

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Premier division: Cambridge City 3, Weymouth 2. Southern division: Canterbury 1, Poole 0; Salisbury 1, Stamcombe 2; Weatstone 0, Newport IoW 0. Midland division: Barn 1, Bridgnorth 0; Dudley 4, Tamworth 1; Evesham 0, Yate 3, Hinckley 3, Newport AFC 4

HPS LOANS LEAGUE: Premier division: Fleetwood 0, Buxton 2; Winsford 0, Chorley 1. First division cup: Lancaster 3, Parsley Celtic 2

KONICA LEAGUE OF WALES: Abergavenny 0, Llanelli 0, Aberystwyth 6, Barry Town 0; Ebbw Vale 0, Caerbran 1, Haverfordwest 2, Afan Lido 3, Inter Cardiff 0, Maesteg Park 0, Mold 0, Porthmadog 3.

FA YOUTH CUP: Fifth round: Sheffield United 2, Leeds 2.

CRICKET

SHEFFIELD SHIELD: Hobart: Queensland 290 (T Barsby 100, M Hayden 82; P McPhee 4-77) v Tasmania. Melbourne: New South Wales 162 (M Slater 53, C Howard 4-43); Victoria 55-1. Adelaide: Western Australia 256-5 (M Veletta 65 not out, P McPhee 59).

GOLF

SUNNINGDALE FOURSOMES: Third round: I Mackenzie and M Mackenzie (Hallamshire) bt N Blenkiron (Beaconsfield) and S Elliott (Hemburyl), 3 and 2; S Barwick and S Maynard (E Berks) bt A Wall (Sunningdale) and S Webster (Atherstone) on 19th; J C Davies and J G Jamieson (Sunningdale) bt M McGuire (Drayton Park) and P Streeter (Sleaford), on 19th; L Warnock (Roxdale Hundred) and D Wood (C E Heath) bt S Lambert (Combe Hill) and J Morley (Slade), 3 and 2; L Fickling and M Deal (Bush Hill Park) bt P Dwyer and S Andrew (Cirencester), 1 hole. S Robertson (Swindon) and D Howell (Broome Manor) bt G Griffiths (Wentworth) and L Cox (Foxhills), 2 and 1; W Henry (John Hill Holdings) and P Lane (PLA Golf) bt D Bradley (St Mellion) and R Binney (Newquay), at 19th, G Emerson (Salisbury and S Wilts) and M Tolely (Broadstone) bt M Hughes and K Bayliss (Aberystwyth), at 20th; P Young (unattached) and V Phillips (Stoke Poges) bt R Boxall (Camberley) and D Cooper (Birchwood), 2 holes; A Beal (E Dorset) and L James (Broadstone) bt S Whitten and I West (Enfield), 2 and 1; A Peach and G Sinclair (Burnham and Berrow) bt A Lancaster (Sytham Green Dmrn) and S Astin (Royal Lytham), 4 and 3; T Milford and P Stuart (Stirlingbourne and M Regis) bt G Edge (Moseley) and A Allen (Maesteck Park), 2 and 1; C Panton-Lewis (Scottish Life) and S Moon (Skoda GB) bt J Christine (Worplesdon) and S Prosser (Wright), 3 and 1; D Hamilton (East Herts) and S Standing (Henbury Manor) bt M King (Sunningdale) and J Healy (Hull), on 19th; A Carter and A Hart (West Hill) bt R Solton (Camberley Heath) and J Wilshire (Hindhead), 4 and 3; M Walch (Hill Valley) and C Watts (Hawkstone Park) bt P Hollington (Guildford) and J Hoskison (West Surrey), 2 and 1. Fourth round: 1 Mackenzie and M Mackenzie (Hallamshire) bt S Barwick and S Maynard (E Berks), 3 and 2; L Warwick (Rochford Hundred) and D Wood (C E Heath) bt J C Davies and J G Jermine (Sunningdale), at 20th; L Fickling (Enfield) and M Deal (Bush Hill Park) bt S Robertson (Swindon) and D Howell (Broome Park), 3 and 2; G Emerson (Salisbury and S Wilts) and N Tolely (Broadstone) bt W Henry (John Hill Holdings) and P Lane (PLA Golf), 3 and 2; A Beale (E Dorset) and L James (Broadstone) bt P Young (unattached) and B Philips (Stoke Pogis), 2 and 1; T Milford and P Stuart (Stirlingbourne) bt A Peach and G Sinclair (Burnham and Berrow), 3 and 1; D Hamilton (E Herts) and S Standing (Henbury Manor) bt C Panton-Lewis (Scottish Life) and S Moon (Skoda GB), 5 and 3; A Carter and A Hart (West Hill) bt M Walch (Hill Valley) and C Watts (Hawkstone), at 19th. Quarter-finals: Warwick and Wood bt Mackenzie and Mackenzie, 4 and 3, Emerson and Tolerly bt Fickling and Deal, 3 and 2; Beal and James bt Millard and Stuart, 3 and 2; Hamilton and Standing bt Carter and Hart, 2 and 1.

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE (NHL): Edmonton 4, New York Rangers 3 (OT).

REAL TENNIS

QUEEN'S CLUB, London: George Wimpey amateur championships: First round: J Snow bt D Vaughan, 6-0, 6-0, 6-0. Quarter-final: M Pondrigh bt M Devonald-Smith, 6-0, 6-0, 6-0; P Luck-Hille wo T Warburg, scr.

SNOOKER

BANGKOK: Asian Open: Fifth round (England unless stated): J Watsana (Thai) bt J Swail (N Ire), 5-2. J Parrot bt J Johnson, 5-1. J White bt A McManus (Scot), 5-4; D Morgan (Wales) bt N Frum, 5-3; W Thorne bt F O'Brien (Ire), 5-3. D Harold bt S Hendry (Scot) 5-2. P Davies (Wales) bt S Lee, 5-2. P Tanner bt J Ferguson, 5-3.

ROWING

PUTNEY: Schools Head of the River: 1, Kingston GS, 12min 50sec; 2, Eton, 12:51, equal 3, Shrewsbury, Radley, 12:59; 5, King's, Chester, 13:00; 6, St Edward's, Oxford, 13:05; 7, Hampton, 13:08, equal 8, Pangbourne, Eton B (second eight winners), 13:11; 10, Abingdon, 13.13.

RUGBY LEAGUE

STONES BITTER CHAMPIONSHIP: First division: Bradford Northern 23, Wigan 16. Widnes 19, Leeds 8.

RUGBY UNION

CLUB MATCH: Coventry 60, Nuneaton 20.

REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: Surrey 8, Combined London Old Boys 25.

SQUASH

VALE DO LOBO: Portuguese Open: Second round: C van der Wath (SA) bt P Nicol (Scot), 12-15, 15-10, 15-8, 17-15. P Marshall (Eng) bt C Rowland (Aus), 15-5, 15-5, 12-15, 15-10; A Adarraga (Sp) bt Zubair Jahan Khan (Pak), 15-11, 15-1. 15-5; R Eyles (Aus) bt D Meddings (Eng), 15-7, 14-15, 15-9, 15-8.

TENNIS

BISHAM ABBEY: LTA International junior tournament: Boys: First round: T Spinks bt R Lumsden (Aus), 6-2, 6-4; M Coombes bt P Dani (Hun), 6-3, 3-6, 6-3; K Flygt (Swe) bt M Colla (It), 7-5, 6-3; T Larsen (Den) bt R Willems (Bel), 6-0, 6-3. L Milligan bt H Rosip (Nor), 6-2, 6-2. M Ratt (Austria) bt M Caluguru (Rom), 6-0, 6-1; J Hind bt C Reid (Rom), 6-4, 6-3; M Lee bt M Anderson (Den), 5-7, 6-4, 6-2; J-N Grinda (Fr) bt J Williams, 4-6, 6-3, 6-4. L Sabin bt M Lubiak (Pol), 6-2, 6-1; N Ingham bt A Sattini (It), 6-1, 6-4. Second round: M Coombes bt K Flygt (Swe), 7-5, 6-4; P Martin bt M Ratt (Austria), 7-6, 7-6; J Hind bt M Lee, 6-3, 6-2; T Spinks bt G Keymolen (Bel), 6-4, 6-3; T Larsen (Den) bt H-B Nordstrom (Swe), 7-6, 4-6, 6-3, L Sabin bt N Jones, 6-2, 7-6; M Ingham bt J Fox, 2-3, ret. Girls: First round: T Croson bt J Lassiter, 6-1, 6-2; A Buggins bt R Dunbar, 6-2, 7-5; M Motts (Bel) bt K Martin, 6-2, 6-3; M Pape (Den) bt K Nicholson, 6-1, 6-1; A Wilmar (Bel) bt S Donavan, 7-6, 6-0; K Webster bt M Wolfe (Den), 6-2, 3-6, 8-4; I Wyatt bt A Tordoff, 4-6, 8-2, 7-6, L Fletcher bt K Harkins, 6-1, 6-2.

Second round: J Fitzgerald bt S Olsen (Den), 7-6, 5-7, 6-4, I Wyatt bt J Taylor, 6-4, 6-1; C Mellis bt K Nugent (Ire), 6-3, 1-6, 6-4; E Roubanova (unattached) bt A Buggins, 6-1, 6-1; L Fletcher bt F Hearn, 2-6, 6-1, 7-5

KEY BISCAYNE, Florida: Lipton championships: Men: Third round: G Forget (Fr) bt A Boetsch (Fr), 7-5, 6-2; N Kuti (Swe) wo B Becker (Ger), scr; M Stich (Ger) bt R Krishnan (India), 6-3, 6-3; A Medvedev (Russ) bt P Haarhuis (Holl), 6-4, 6-4; P Sampras (US) bt J Tarango (US), 7-6, 6-3; M Washington (US) bt F Santoro (Fr), 7-6, 6-3. Women: Fourth round: M Fernandez (US) bt L McNeil (US), 6-4, 7-6; N Tauziat (Fr) bt Z Garrison-Jackson (US), 6-4, 5-7, 7-5; A Sánchez Vicario (Sp) bt N Zvereva (Belarus), 6-4, 2-6, 6-3.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

7.30 unless stated

Barclays League

Second division

Chester v Rotherham .....

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: Bangor v Ballyclare (7.45)

NEVILLE OVENDEN COMBINATION: First division: Norwich v Fulham.

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Wisbech v Fakenham.

GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Exmouth v Liskeard

UNDER-15 INTERNATIONAL: Northern Ireland v Italy (at Londonderry, 6.0)

SCHOOLS MATCH: English British Gas Trophy: Semi-final: St Albans v Liverpool (at Clarence Park).

RUGBY LEAGUE

Stones Bitter championship

First division

Halifax v St Helens (7.30) .....

RUGBY UNION

A International

Ireland v England (at Donnybrook, 3.0) .....

Representative match

Irish Students v English Students (at Angelsey Road, 1.0) .....

Club matches

7.0 unless stated

Bedford v L Scottish (7.30) .....

Gloucester v Cardiff .....

Nottingham v Leicester (7.15) .....

Penarth v Cheltenham .....

Plymouth v Brixham (7.15) .....

Pontypool v Bath .....

Swansea v Moseley .....

Tour match

Bridgend v Tucuman (Arg) (7.0) .....

OTHER SPORT

BADMINTON: Yonex All-England championships (Wembley).

BOWLS: British Isles men's indoor championships (Swansea).

GOLF: Sunningdale foursomes (Sunningdale); University match (Hoylake).

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Slings and arrows of festival fortune

Alan Lee *follows the contrasting fates of the jockeys on Gold Cup day at Cheltenham and finds that their optimism survives intact*

By teatime on Gold Cup day, Prestbury Park is a battlefield. The wounded are many and varied, from empty-pocketed punters to empty-headed inebriates, but nowhere are the vagaries of this chaotic day more graphically displayed than in the jockeys' room.

It was Hywel Davies, that most loquacious of Welshmen, who once said that a jockey spends all year looking forward to Cheltenham and Thursday night wondering why he bothered.

Yesterday, Davies received painful personal endorsement for that view. Cherrykino, a horse he believed to be the best he had ridden, and one of the last surviving relatives of the incomparable Arkle, fell fatally at the seventh fence in the Gold Cup.

Davies suffered mild concussion and a badly broken heart. In the latter, he was not alone. There were plenty of glum faces among the jockey fraternity, some of them not even riding.

Jonothan Lower, capable shadow to Peter Scudamore in the Martin Pipe stable, was due to ride the runner-up, Rushing Wild. His excitement had been apparent all week. But yesterday morning Richard Dunwoody became available and, expedience overcoming loyalty, Lower was ditched.

Carol Dunwoody, husband of the leading jockey, felt Lower's dismay keenly. "I have just seen him and I could hardly look him in the face," she said before racing.

Then there was Carl Llewellyn. He, at least, rode a winner at the festival before fate cast its die, but yesterday he stalked the place restlessly, his broken collarbone strapped under his raincoat as he made optimistic noises about recovering in time for the next great anticipation, the Grand National.

Riding in the Gold Cup, however, is no passport to health and happiness. Even winning it gives no such guarantees. Outside the weighing-room yesterday, Terry Biddlecombe was testimony to that.

Few jockeys, of any era, commanded the hero-worship given to Biddlecombe on this course, where he won the 1968 Gold Cup on Woodland Venture. But since he retired, various career ventures have failed, along with two marriages. He returned from Australia last month to try and start again. He is down on his luck, yet he smiled infectiously through this pilgrimage.

Also smiling through adversity was Adam Kondrat. Among the unkinder things said about him before the race was that his riding style resembled a sack of potatoes and The Fellow, short-priced favourite, could not win with him in the saddle.

To the uninhibited delight of the bookmakers and the despond of a party of 30 who had travelled by coach from France, The Fellow did not win. Perhaps Kondrat was smiling because even the most myopic losing punter could attach no blame to him.

The weighing-room inevitably had its fund of stories. Steve Smith Eccles is currently serving a driving ban and, during the last meeting at Cheltenham, he signalled frantically across the room to his Newmarket neighbour, Ferdie Murphy.

The trainer thought he was making himself available for a spare ride on Sibmn Abbey and promptly booked him. "I was only looking for a lift home," Smith Eccles said. The partnership was fifth yesterday and the irrepressible Smith Eccles said: "He'll come back and win next year."

But amid the dishevelled debriefings in the weighing-room last night, every jockey shared a common thought which overshadowed all else.

Theirs is a tight and caring community. The pitfalls are accepted but those in strife are never forgotten. This week, David Tegg, about whom nobody ever has a bad word, has suffered a brain haemorrhage. The weighing-room has been stunned, the atmosphere clouded.

Today, as Cheltenham's wonderful madness gives way to the mundane, the jockey clan will say a silent prayer as Tegg undergoes surgery.

As Dunwoody said after breaking his festival duck at the last attempt: "David's condition puts all of this in perspective."

IAN STEWART



Putting on the Ritz: Charlie Swan celebrates victory in the Stayers' Hurdle on Shuil Ar Aghaidh, his fourth of the festival, which brought him the Ritz Club Trophy

Mr Murdock has clear-cut chance

By Brian Beel

THE TIMES RISING STARS

ALTHOUGH only third in a point-to-point last time, Mr Murdock is a confident selection for the fifth qualifier in The Times Rising Stars series at Lingfield today.

That defeat, at Castle of Comfort, came after Mr Murdock had run up a series of nine consecutive successes.

He was ridden there for the first time by Michael Miller, his rider again today. Robert Alner, his regular partner, who broke a leg at Larkhill four weeks ago, attaches no blame for that defeat to Miller and expects today's race to give him a confidence boost.

Barring accidents, Mr Murdock is impossible to oppose on form. One of the top point-to-pointers in the country, he meets four rivals who are barely out of maiden class.

Amari Prince was unplaced subsequently after winning such a race, in good style, at the Heythrop six weeks ago. An ex-Irish gelding, he was second in a maiden hurdle last year and looks second best. As a novice hurdle winner, Arpal Breeze has to give weight to his rivals but his subsequent form has been disappointing.

Ryton Run appears irresolute. He was going well to three out in a ladies' race on his fourth outing this term but failed to run on and had pulled up twice previously.

The form of Hale's Melody, third in a maiden last time out, does not inspire confidence in this company.

LINGFIELD LINE-UP

4.00 TIMES RISING STARS HUNTER CHASE
(Qualifier: amateurs: £1,882: 3m) (5 runners)

501 4-12P4 ARPAL BREEZE 13 (G,S) (J Turner) J Turner 9-12-5 ... Miss Z Turner (7) 89
502 /2P/15 AMARI PRINCE 20 (S) (D Fletcher) D Fletcher 9-11-12 ... C Ward Thomas (7) –
503 111-13 MR MURDOCK 20 (G,S) (B Nettey) H Wellstead 8-11-12 ... M G Miller (7) –
504 4-0PP6 RYTON RUN 6 (W Odell) Mrs S Odell 8-11-12 ... J Trice-Rolph (7) 86
505 P2F/P3 HALE'S MELODY 20 (W Shere) Mrs P Townsley 8-11-7 ... P Townsley (7) –

☐ Form figures and racecard details include point-to-points

BETTING: 1-3 Mr Murdock, 6-1 Amari Prince, 8-1 Arpal Breeze, 14-1 Ryton Run, 25-1 Hale's Melody

FORM FOCUS

ARPAL BREEZE, novice hurdle winner, won march on point-to-point debut but has disappointed since. AMARI PRINCE second in maiden hurdle; winning point-to-point debut in maiden, unplaced after. MR MURDOCK won nine points in succession 1991-93 but beaten into third place last time out. RYTON RUN won one of nine points last season but has shown nothing since. HALE'S MELODY third in maiden point last time out, best form so far.

FAKENHAM

THUNDERER

2.20 Elegant Friend. 2.50 Thatcher Rock. 3.20 John O'Dee. 3.50 Child Of The Mist. 4.20 Neltama. 4.50 Irish Ditty.

Brian Beel: 4.20 Neltama.

GOING: GOOD (WATERED) SIS

2.20 IVOR JORDAN SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,442: 2m 110yd) (12 runners)

1 U- BISHTHORN 333 (J Whyte) J Whyte 8-13-8 ... Mr G Pewter (7) –
2 PUB231 ELEGANT FRIEND 62 (S) (M Tompkins Racing) M Tompkins 5-11-10 P Smith Eccles (7) 99
3 2314PP SAINT BENE'T 7 (D,F) (J Everitt) K Wingrove 5-11-6 ... R Greene (3) 88
4 463005 EARLY BREEZE 44 (D,F) (G Shelley) M McCourt 7-11-6 ... NON-RUNNER 98
5 683401 WEEKDAY CROSS 28 (CD,G) (M Fitzgerald) J Jenkins 5-11-5 ... D Gallagher 82
6 25-F350 PERE BAZILLE 17 (V,D,BF,F,G) (Just For Fun Racing) P Nicholls 8-11-3 M A Fitzgerald 86
7 3-46065 SPANISH WHISPER 26 (CD,G,S) (Barton & Bendish) J Bostock 6-10-12 W Marston (7) 84
8 30223- YUVRAJ 402 (CD,S) (R Fireknaw) B McMath 9-10-9 ... S Keightley 86
9 0P/51/U COLOMNA 16 (D) (Miss J Toulson) B Richmond 7-10-7 ... D Murphy –
10 F85-083 ILLOGICAL 22 (V,D,F) (Mrs S Glover) J Glover 6-10-1 ... S D Williams (3) 93
11 60-5050 POINT TAKEN 27 (Mrs C Morgan) K Morgan 6-10-0 ... A S Smith 80
12 04060 GOLDEN ANCONA 55 (The Racing Telegraph) M Britain 10-10-0 ... S Mason (7) 84

Long handicap: Point Taken 9-10, Golden Ancona 9-10.

BETTING: 7-4 Elegant Friend, 7-2 Weekday Cross, 9-2 Illogical, 8-1 Spanish Whisper, 8-1 Saint Bene't, 10-1 Pere Bazille, 12-1 Yuvraj, 14-1 others.

1992: ILEWIN 5-10-8 M Ahern (9-4) J Jenkins 7 ran

FORM FOCUS

ELEGANT FRIEND beat Vaigly Mason 15l in 20-runner Market Rasen (2m 1f 110yd, soft) selling handicap hurdle. EARLY BREEZE 29l 5th of 11 to Dara Melody in Southwell (AW, 2m) selling handicap hurdle. WEEKDAY CROSS beat Nova Spirit 4l in 9-runner selling handicap hurdle over course and distance (good) with SPANISH WHISPER (17lb better off) 24l 5th. YUVRAJ 4¾l 3rd of 4 to Safety in Lingfield (AW, 2m) handicap hurdle. ILLOGICAL ½l 3rd of 12 to Polder in Catterick (2m, good) conditional jockeys' claiming handicap hurdle.
Selection: ELEGANT FRIEND

2.50 TOPCLEAN NOVICES CHASE (£2,540: 3m) (3 runners)

1 SU3P20 SOUTH HARVEST 7 (B,S) (D Donnelly) J Jenkins 10-11-5 ... D Gallagher 93
2 6-53122 THATCHER ROCK 17 (BF,F,S) (M Dibney) P Nicholls 8-11-5 ... M A Fitzgerald 99
3 3F0U22 TOP IT ALL 2 (B,G) (Three Ply Racing) M Ryan 5-10-9 ... D Murphy 95

BETTING: 10-11 Thatcher Rock, 9-4 South Harvest, 3-1 Top It All.

1992: COUNTRY CAP 11-11-5 D Townsend (5-4 fav) R Townsend 8 ran

FORM FOCUS

SOUTH HARVEST 4l 2nd of 9 to Rocket Launcher in Newbury (2m 4f, firm) novice chase on penultimate start. THATCHER ROCK 2l 2nd of 7 to Armala in Lingfield (2m 4f 110yd, good) handicap chase. TOP IT ALL 2½l 2nd of 7 to Armala in Huntingdon (2m 4f 110yd, good to firm) novice chase.
Selection: THATCHER ROCK (nap)

3.20 JEWSON HANDICAP CHASE (£3,074: 2m 5f 110yd) (5 runners)

1 1P/P541 WESTERN LEGEND 22 (D,G,S) (Miss J Laing) P Nicholls 9-12-0 ... Mr T Jenks (7) 95
2 3P6023 JOHN O'DEE 24 (C,F,G,S) (G Hubbard) F Murphy 10-11-3 ... Mr Paul Murphy (7) 97
3 24PF45 ON YOUR WAY 6 (G,S) (W Morgan) J Leigh 11-11-0 ... R Beggan 98
4 552134 LOVE ANEW 17 (CD,F,G) (D Bowlett) M Dixon 8-10-7 ... D Murphy 86
5 14-P143 BEN TIRRAN 9 (D,F,G) (P Lamyman) Mrs S Lamyman 9-10-3 ... D Telfer 99

BETTING: 6-4 Western Legend, 11-4 John O'Dee, 9-2 Ben Tirran, 6-1 Love Anew, 8-1 On Your Way.

1992: EBONY SWELL 11-10-9 P Midgley 9-2 (S Campion) 10 ran

FORM FOCUS

WESTERN LEGEND beat Under Offer 5l in 9-runner Wincanton (3m 5l, good) amateur riders' handicap chase. JOHN O'DEE 2l 2nd of 7 to Gladiogetit in handicap chase over course and distance (good) on penultimate start. LOVE ANEW 17½l 4th of 7 to Armala in Lingfield (2m 4f 110yd, good) handicap chase. BEN TIRRAN 16½l 3rd of 5 to Lady Token in Catterick (3m 1f 110yd, good) handicap chase. Earlier beat On The Hooch 6l in Sedgefield (2m 5l, good) handicap chase.
Selection: WESTERN LEGEND

3.50 MIDDLETON AGGREGATES HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,735: 2m 110yd) (5 runners)

1 003112 CHILD OF THE MIST 13 (CD,G,S) (J Whyte) J Whyte 7-12-0 ... Mr G Pewter (7) 94
2 -112611 JAMES THE FIRST 21 (D,F,S) (D Nicholls) P Nicholls 5-10-13 ... M A Fitzgerald 99
3 124230 SCARLET EXPRESS 7 (CD,G,S) (Miss J Toulson) B Richmond 6-10-2 ... D Murphy 92
4 1P6-462 RATIFY 34 (D,G) (J Fretwell) K Morgan 6-10-1 ... A S Smith 89
5 8P3600 WHISKEY BLUES 37 (CD,G) (T Suttar) B Richmond 8-10-0 ... R Beggan 71

Long handicap: Whiskey Blues 8-0.

BETTING: 7-4 James The First, 9-4 Child Of The Mist, 3-1 Scarlet Express, 11-2 Ratify, 20-1 Whiskey Blues.

1992: VA LUTE 8-11-5 P Hughes (5-2 jt-fav) P Nicholls 8 ran

FORM FOCUS

CHILD OF THE MIST head 2nd of 8 to Rosgill in Newbury (2m 100yd, firm) handicap hurdle. Previously beat SCARLET EXPRESS (7lb better off) 5l in 6-runner handicap hurdle over course and distance (good). JAMES THE FIRST beat Sunset Rock 1l in 7-runner Haydock (2m, good to soft) novice handicap hurdle. SCARLET EXPRESS 14l 7th of 9 to Dari Sound in Market Rasen (2m 5l 110yd, good) handicap hurdle. RATIFY 5l 2nd of 18 to Teenage Scribbler in Catterick (2m, good to soft) selling hurdle.
Selection: JAMES THE FIRST

4.20 DEWFRESH MUSHROOMS NOVICES HUNTER CHASE
(Amateurs: £2,139: 2m 5f 110yd) (10 runners)

1 B0F306- ABITBIZARRE 335 (Mrs B Lockey) M Bloom 7-11-7 ... N Bloom (7) 72
2 -U2/5/5 DAN O'TULLY 14 (C Nimmo) C Nimmo 14-11-7 ... T Byrne (7) –
3 4FP044- EASY OVER 322F (F,G,S) (D Howes) Mrs L Wadham 7-11-7 ... P Taiano (7) 89
4 0/02 NELTAMA 10 (S) (F Gilman) Miss C Saunders 9-11-7 ... T Jenks (7) 99
5 F00/6/ RYMISTER 1154 (S) (D Harding-Jones) Mrs J Read 10-11-7 ... P Harding-Jones (5) –
6 /5F60- SHIMSHEK 412 (S) (G King) Mrs J Read 9-11-7 ... S Cowell (7) –
7 00/ SURJAY 1450 (M Watson) D Mills 8-11-7 ... M Watson (7) –
8 50P35-0 UNION QUAY 36 (N Pewter) N Pewter 9-11-7 ... G Pewter (7) 82
9 PP3/ VAN DYKE BROWN 2155 (Mrs A Wales) W Wales 12-11-7 ... W Wales (5) –
10 0P6- MISS CONSTRUE 340 (W Bulwer-Long) W Bulwer-Long 6 11-2 ... S Sporborg (7) –

BETTING: 9-4 Neltama, 3-1 Rymister, 9-2 Easy Over, 6-1 Shimshek, 10-1 Dan O'Tully, 14-1 others.

1992: LOCH BLUE 10-11-6 C Burnett-Wells (11-8 fav) S Dow 9 ran

FORM FOCUS

ABITBIZARRE 16l 4th of 8 to Lakmon in open maiden at Ampton (good). DAN O'TULLY distant 5th of 7 to Once Stung in Newbury (3m, firm) hunter chase. EASY OVER beat Robie's Choice 1½l in 11-runner ladies' open at Ampton (good). NELTAMA 8l 2nd of 17 to Trust The Gypsy in Leicester (2m 1f, good) hunter chase. RYMISTER beat Old Dundalk ½l in 16-runner confined point at Higham (good). SHIMSHEK beat EASY OVER 6l in 14-runner confined at Cottenham (good to soft) in January with RYMISTER every chance when fell 15th. UNION QUAY 59l 7th of 9 to Certain Light in Huntingdon (2m 4f 110yd, soft) hunter chase. VAN DYKE BROWN neck 2nd of 9 to Roar; Of Applause in confined point at Ampton (good). MISS CONSTRUE beat Bay Gonner 4l in 3-runner hunt at Higham (good) on penultimate start.
Selection: SHIMSHEK

4.50 HOLKHAM CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,005: 2m 110yd) (6 runners)

1 632-00 SALMAN 34 (Mrs V Ward) Mrs V Ward 7-11-10 ... R Davis 92
2 636113 IRISH DITTY 28 (D,BF,S) (B Wade) K Morgan 5-11-5 ... J McCarthy 98
3 2156 ANTIGUAN FLYER 11 (D) (Barton Bendish Partners) J Bostock 4-10-7 ... W Marston 99
4 003351 DENNINGTON 24 (G) (G Hubbard) F Murphy 5-10-6 ... B Murphy 94
5 026USF THE PRUSSIAN 16 (B) (P Bradley) K Wingrove 7-10-0 ... R Greene 94
6 0006 RUTH'S GAMBLE 8 (Mrs A Emanuel) Mrs L Jewell 5-10-0 ... A Bates 97

Long handicap: The Prussian 9-8, Ruth's Gamble 9-11.

BETTING: 7-4 Irish Ditty, 5-2 Dennington, 3-1 Antiguan Flyer, 6-1 Salman, 14-1 Ruth's Gamble, The Prussian.

1992: SWAN WALK 4-10-9 S Williams (3-1) Mrs N Macauley 5 ran

FORM FOCUS

SALMAN out of form since 11½l 2nd of 15 to Mountain Kingdom in Wetherby (2m, good) novice hurdle in April. IRISH DITTY 5½l 3rd of 8 to Child Of The Mist in handicap hurdle over course and distance (good). Previously beat Cool Dude 2½l in 9-runner Catterick (2m, good to soft) handicap hurdle. ANTIGUAN FLYER beat Yasiem 2l in 15-runner Southwell (AW, 2m) novice hurdle. DENNINGTON beat Mr Invader 1½l in 10-runner Huntingdon (2m 5f 110yd, good) novice handicap hurdle. THE PRUSSIAN 10¾l 3rd of 6 to Lark Rise in Lingfield (AW, 2m 4f) maiden hurdle.
Selection: IRISH DITTY

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
M Tompkins	5	13	38.5	D Murphy	3	17	17.6
M Ryan	6	17	35.3	Mr P Harding-Jones	3	19	15.8
B McMath	3	9	33.3				
J Jenkins	11	47	23.4				
Only qualifiers				Only qualifiers			

St Jovite retired to stud

ST JOVITE, European horse of the year in 1992, has been retired from racing. He injured a tendon during a workout in preparation for his four-year-old campaign in North America.

The son of Pleasant Colony had yet to make his American debut after spending the winter at owner Virginia Kraft Payson's training centre in Martin County, Florida.

He aggravated an old injury during a public exercise gallop at Gulfstream Park. Roger Attfield, his trainer, said: "St Jovite worked an easy mile at Gulfstream Park on March 7. Some time after the work it was discovered that an old injury to the tendon had appeared.

"In a lesser horse, I would have considered this a manageable condition. But in a horse of the calibre of St Jovite, running him at anything less than 100 per cent, with a condition that would certainly affect his performance, was unfair to him."

Bred by his owner in Lexington, Kentucky, and trained by Jim Bolger at Coolcullen, St Jovite became champion Irish two-year-old of 1991.

Last year, he finished runner-up to Dr Devious in the Derby before taking the Irish Derby by 12 lengths, the greatest winning margin this century.

Three weeks later, he landed the odds in the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes at Ascot, beating Saddlers' Hall by six lengths. In all, he won six of his 11 starts.

St Jovite will retire to his owner's Payson Stud where, because of his late start, he will cover only a limited book of mares this season.

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: JAMES THE FIRST
(3.50 Fakenham)

Next best: Western Legend
(3.20 Fakenham)

Advertising in VAT plan

JOCKEYS will be wearing advertising on their breeches and boots by the summer, the Jockey Club forecast yesterday.

The Jockeys Association's planned advertising scheme will now be incorporated into owners' efforts to attract sponsorship to qualify for VAT registration.

David Pipe, the Jockey Club's director of public affairs, said: "What owners will have to do is sign a declaration of intent to get an income through running their horses — in other words through prize-money, sponsorship or advertising in one form or another.

"This will embrace the jockeys' plan for advertising on boots and breeches and so on. So we will certainly, within two or three months, see jockeys wearing advertising on their boots and breeches."

LINGFIELD PARK

THUNDERER

2.00 Olanthe. 2.30 Tapestry Dancer. 3.00 Mighty Frolic. 3.30 Gilston Lass. 4.00 Mr Murdock. 4.30 Va Utu. 5.00 Master Bavard.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 3.30 CAPSIZE.

Brian Beel: 4.00 Mr Murdock.

GOING: FIRM (GOOD TO FIRM IN HOME STRAIGHT) SIS

2.00 NEWLEAF MAIDEN HURDLE
(4-Y-O: £1,954: 2m 110yd) (10 runners)

101 6604 BEAM ME UP SCOTTY 22F P Mitchell 11-0 ... D Gallagher
102 DIGGER DOYLE 11F C Allen 11-0 ... J Ryan
103 34 KENYATTA 29 A Moore 11-0 ... G Moore
104 MARAADY 323F G Enright 11-0 ... M Perrett
105 0045 MASTER REACH 9 Miss K Allison 11-0 ... M Hourigan (3)
106 56 MEDIATOR 18 A Moore 11-0 ... J Clarke (7)
107 3 OLANTHE 55 (B) C Brooks 11-0 ... G Bradley
108 00 ROMAN ROMANY 22 J Gifford 11-0 ... P Hide (5)
109 SARAZAR 172F R Akehurst 11-0 ... S McNeill
110 645 MISS SOUTER 13 H Howe 10-9 ... J Frost

4-5 Olanthe, 6-1 Kenyatta, 8-1 Miss Souter, 10-1 Master Reach, 12-1 Roman Romany, Sarazar, 14-1 Digger Doyle, 16-1 Maraady, 20-1 others.

2.30 LAMBERT & FOSTER SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,836: 2m 110yd) (9)

201 0343 BRILLIANT FUTURE 15 (D,F) P Hobbs 8-11-10 M Hourigan (3)
202 0000 PRESENT TIMES 9 (D,F,G,S) A Moore 7-11-8 ... G Moore
203 P-00 ALL ELECTRIC 16 C C Elsey 8-11-2 ... G Bradley
204 -062 DESERT PALM 4 (D,F,G) R Hodges 8-11-1 ... A Tory
205 P40P WESSEX WARRIOR 19F (D,F) D Long 7-10-10 ... B de Haan
206 0-05 SPRING FORWARD 9 (V,D,F) R Peacock 9-10-7 ... D Salter (7)
207 4P64 TAPESTRY DANCER 4 (G) M Haynes 5-10-5 ... M Perrett
208 /P00 SPRING FLIGHT 29 (D,S) R Simpson 10-10-5 ... S McNeill
209 4304 LOON 31 J Joseph 5-10-4 ... D Skyrme

11-4 Desert Palm, 4-1 Brilliant Future, 5-1 Loon, 6-1 Present Times, 7-1 Tapestry Dancer, 10-1 Spring Forward, 12-1 All Electric, 14-1 others.

3.00 PAICE GROUP MAIDEN CHASE
(£2,772: 3m) (5)

301 3F05 ELWADI 17 R Hoad 6-11-8 ... M Hoad
302 4PF3 JIMMY O'DEA 11 (B) T Bill 6-11-8 ... M Hourigan (3)
303 4PUP MISTRAL STORY 9 (B) J Gifford 8-11-8 ... P Hide (5)
304 FP4P RAMLOSA 21 (B) D Barons 9-11-8 ... J Frost
305 -F3U MIGHTY FROLIC 70 M McCormack 6-11-3 ... I Lawrence

6-4 Mighty Frolic, 9-4 Jimmy O'Dea, 5-1 Ramlosa, 6-1 Mistral Story, 8-1 Elwadi

3.30 SET ASIDE NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE
(£2,463: 2m) (6)

401 1214 BELMOREDEAN 15F (D,BF,F,S) R O'Sullivan 8-12-0 ... D O'Sullivan (3)
402 P461 COTAPAXI 2 (F) R Hodges 8-11-1 (7ex) ... A Tory
403 1-3F PINTAIL BAY 95 (B,F) C Brooks 7-10-11 ... G Bradley
404 4254 GILSTON LASS 120 J King 6-10-8 ... J Kavanagh
405 0P34 CAPSIZE 14 (G) A Moore 7-10-8 ... G Moore
406 -604 WILL SHE WONT SHE 38 R Frost 7-10-8 ... J Frost

5-2 Belmoredean, 3-1 Cotapaxi, 4-1 Capsize, Pintail Bay, 8-1 Gilston Lass, 10-1 Will She Wont She.

4.00 TIMES RISING STARS HUNTER CHASE
(Qualifier: amateurs: £1,882: 3m) (5)

RUNNERS AND RIDERS — SEE ABOVE

4.30 GUMMER HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,230: 2m 110yd) (8)

601 1553 ROPE 10 (D,F) Mrs F Walwyn 7-11-10 ... B de Haan
602 5212 VICTORY ANTHEM 8 (CD,G) P Clarke 7-11-10 ... I Lawrence
603 1021 HANDSOME NED 30 (B,S) D Grissell 7-11-6 ... Peter Hobbs
604 4401 ROC COLOR 60 (S) C Brooks 4-11-2 ... G Bradley
605 1445 SOLID STEEL 22F (BF,G,S) A Moore 5-11-1 ... G Moore
606 2442 VA UTU 11 (D,F,G) M Channon 5-11-0 ... Lorna Vincent
607 6421 SINGING REPLY 14 (F) D Marks 5-10-13 ... S McNeill
608 5-04 NEARCTIC BAY 11 (D,S) T Bill 7-10-7 ... M Hourigan (3)

3-1 Handsome Ned, 7-2 Roc Color, 5-1 Singing Reply, Va Utu, 6-1 Solid Steel, 7-1 Victory Anthem, 10-1 Rope, 14-1 Nearctic Bay.

5.00 EBF NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE
(£1,520: 2m) (7)

1 21 MASTER BAVARD 10 M Saunders 5-12-0 ... V Slattery (5)
2 FREDWILL A Moore 6-11-7 ... J Clarke (7)
3 JACK DIAMOND Mrs R Williams 5-11-7 ... C Huggan (7)
4 0 MARTI BROWN 74 Miss H Knight 6-11-2 ... Mr C Vigors (7)
5 SON OF ANUN W G M Turner 4-11-0 ... John McCabe (7)
6 43 TELMAR SYSTEMS 10 K Ivory 4-11-0 ... D Salter (7)
7 DANGEROSA A Moore 4-10-9 ... P Hide (5)

1-2 Master Bavard, 9-2 Telmar Systems, 8-1 Marti Brown, 10-1 Fredwill, 12-1 Dangerosa, 14-1 Son Of Anun, 25-1 Jack Diamond.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: R Akehurst, 17 winners from 63 runners, 27.0%; C Brooks, 4 from 16, 25.0%; R O Sullivan, 4 from 26, 15.4%; D Grissell, 4 from 31, 12.9%; J Gifford, 6 from 57, 10.5%. Only qualifiers.

JOCKEYS: S McNeill, 4 winners from 14 rides, 28.6%; J Kavanagh, 4 from 18, 22.2%; J Frost, 3 from 15, 20.0%; G Bradley, 5 from 31, 16.1%; M Perrett, 6 from 44, 13.6%. Only qualifiers.

WOLVERHAMPTON

THUNDERER

2.10 Boarding School. 2.40 Ankud. 3.10 Comedy Road. 3.40 Formal Invitation. 4.10 Signor Sassie. 4.40 LUMUMBA DAYS (nap).

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM (FIRM PATCHES) SIS

2.10 WALNUT NOVICE CHASE
(£2,285: 2m) (3 runners)

1 2503 BOARDING SCHOOL 35 (S) C Parker 6-11-2 ... C Grant
2 P0F4 EXPOUND 24 (B) R Juckes 8-11-2 ... W Humphreys
3 PF36 WEST ORIENT 56 (G) Mrs H Parrott 8-11-2 ... D Leahy (5)

8-13 Boarding School, 13-8 West Orient, 14-1 Expound.

2.40 ASH FILLIES SELLING HURDLE
(4-Y-O: £1,792: 2m 110yd) (8)

1 1P ANKUD 17 (BF,S) M Pipe 11-5 ... M Foster
2 00 DARK VISION 22F J King 10-12 ... S Smith Eccles
3 0P0 GENIE SPIRIT 29 N Tinkler-Dawes 10-12 ... D Bridgwater
4 6P3 MING BLUE 13 J Bradley 10-12 ... A Maguire
5 5334 MISS MARIGOLD 17 R Hodges 10-12 ... R Dunwoody
6 052 PAPER CLIP 23 J Cresswell 10-12 ... T Eley (5)
7 055 PEARLY WHITE 10 H Manners 10-12 ... D Leahy (5)
8 0023 SURF BOAT 17 (B) N Tinkler 10-12 ... G McCourt

7-4 Ankud, 2-1 Surf Boat, 5-1 Miss Marigold, 7-1 Paper Clip, 10-1 Dark Vision, Ming Blue, 33-1 Genie Spirit, Pearly White.

3.10 MAHOGANY HANDICAP CHASE
(£2,427: 3m 1f) (3)

1 P0PU COMEDY ROAD 6 (B,F,G) R Lee 9-11-10 ... A Maguire
2 11PP POWDER BOY 64 (F,G) Mrs J Dawe 8-11-7 ... N Dawe
3 2432 UPSTANDING 130 (F) N Davis 11-10-11 ... C Maude

11-8 Comedy Road, 13-8 Powder Boy, 11-4 Upstanding.

3.40 BEECH NOVICE HURDLE
(£1,484: 2m 110yd) (6)

1 F431 LACKENDARA 27 (S) Miss H Knight 6-11-10 ... J Osborne
2 05-P MOSCOW DYNAMO 14F Mrs A Knight 6-11-3 ... S Smith Eccles
3 3221 FORMAL INVITATION 15 (F) D Nicholson 4-11-2 ... R Dunwoody
4 JATHAAB 251F I Campbell 4-10-9 ... R Campbell
5 F0 SURE TO WIN 22 J Carr 4-10-9 ... J J Quinn
6 5250 TRUMPET 15 J O'Shea 4-10-9 ... A Maguire

4-6 Formal Invitation, 7-4 Lackendara, 10-1 Trumpet, 12-1 Jathaab, 33-1 Sure To Win, 50-1 Moscow Dynamo.

4.10 OAK NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE
(£2,364: 2m 4f 110yd) (9)

1 UP31 ENCHANTED MAN 21 (F,G,S) R Lee 9-11-10 ... A Maguire
2 -23P LE BUCHERON 36 (F,G) M Ryan 7-11-9 ... S Smith Eccles
3 2504 WILD ATLANTIC 8 (G) Mrs S Smith 10-11-8 ... D Byrne
4 636P POLLY'S LASS 21 J Bosley 9-11-4 ... W McFarland
5 6013 BARTONDALE 11 (V,F) J Bradley 8-11-4 ... Mr G Lewis (7)
6 6542 SIGNOR SASSIE 11 (G,S) N Tinkler 5-11-4 ... G McCourt
7 304/ PLENARY 704 J Wharton 10-11-4 ... S J O'Neill
8 PU53 TURN'EM BACK JACK 9 (F,G,S) A Bailey 10-11-4 J McLaughlin
9 PU0F LOVER BILL 13 (B) M Wilkinson 11-11-4 ... G Upton

2-1 Enchanted Man, 7-2 Signor Sassie, 11-2 Lover Bill, 6-1 Bartondale, 8-1 Le Bucheron, 10-1 Wild Atlantic, Turn'Em Back Jack, 20-1 others.

4.40 ELM NATIONAL HUNT MAIDEN HURDLE
(£1,484. 2m 110yd) (14)

1 CHARTER SPRINGS Mrs C Hosler 7-11-8 ... G Upton
2 -005 GEORGE LANE 15 F Jordan 5-11-8 ... J Lodder
3 2624 LUMUMBA DAYS 38 Martyn Meade 7-11-8 ... J Railton
4 -004 MALVERNIAN 58 Mrs H Parrott 7-11-8 ... D Leahy (5)
5 0P00 MY DAD FRANK 32 J Mackie 7-11-8 ... R Williamson
6 -500 PRINCETHORPE 90 B Cambidge 6-11-8 ... T Wall
7 000 RAMSTAR 36 Mrs J Pitman 5-11-8 ... M Pitman
8 -FP3 TINA'S MISSILE 20 R Lee 6-11-8 ... A Maguire
9 -505 ATTYRE 21 J Dalton 6-11-3 ... W McFarland
10 5 BUCKNALL GIRL 27 F Brotherton 5-11-3 ... D Meredith (3)
11 05 MARINER'S AIR 16 J Spearing 6-11-3 ... R Dunwoody
12 /PP MAUNDY MIST 8 C Jones 9-11-3 ... W Humphreys
13 0P63 OUTFIELD 15 J Webber 7-11-3 ... M Lynch
14 044 SAILOR'S ROSE 11 M Pipe 5-11-3 ... P Scudamore

7-2 Tina's Missile, 4-1 Lumumba Days, 9-2 Sailor's Rose, 5-1 Ramstar, 13-2 Outfield, 7-1 George Lane, 8-1 Mariner's Air, 12-1 Bucknall Girl, 20-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: M Pipe, 24 winners from 71 runners, 33.8%; D Nicholson, 18 from 65, 27.7%; Miss H Knight, 8 from 32, 25.0%; Mrs J Pitman, 9 from 46, 19.6%; R Lee, 12 from 62, 19.4%; M Wilkinson, 3 from 25, 12.0%.

JOCKEYS: M Foster, 3 winners from 7 rides, 42.9%; P Scudamore, 24 from 68, 35.3%; S Smith Eccles, 11 from 40, 27.5%; M Lynch, 10 from 45, 22.2%; R Dunwoody, 25 from 114, 21.9%; J Osborne, 14 from 65, 21.5%.

☐ The Cheltenham festival extends into a fourth day today to stage Comic Relief Raceday. Desert Orchid and Red Rum top the bill in a walking race.

☐ The Tote jackpot at Lingfield Park today has a starting pool of £110,792.21. The jackpot was not won on any of the three days at the Cheltenham festival.

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S THREE MEETINGS

Cheltenham

Going: good to firm

2.15 DAILY EXPRESS TRIUMPH HURDLE (Grade I: 4-Y-O: £34,275: 2m 1f)
SHAWIYA b f Lashkari - Shayra (Miss G Maher) 10-9 C Swan (12-1) 1.
Amazon Express b c Siberian Express - Thalestria (Mrs J Moss) 11-0 S McNeill (12-1) 2.
Major Bugler b c Thatching - Bugle Sound (C Buckle) 11-0 A Maguire (16-1) 3.
ALSO RAN: 13-2 fav Beauchamp Grace, 11 Indian Quest, 12 Her Honour, 14 Dominant Serenade, Storm Dust, Judicial Field (4th), 16 Bo Knows Best, Top Spin, 20 Kadi, Robingo, Loshian (5th), 25 Viardot, 33 Dissimulateur, Khoton Tycoon (6th), 40 Cluricon, Eden's Close, Holy Wanderer, Indian Run, Ivor's Flutter, Mohana, 66 Winterbourne Abbas, 200 Eid. 25 ran. NR: Idoni, Liability Order, Super Sarena, Act Of Union. ¾l, 2l, ¾l, 1½l, 4l. M J P O'Brien in Ireland. Tote: £10.10; £2.40, £3.30, £3.80, £3.50. DF: £72.30. Trio: £454.70. CSF: £128.45. Tricast: £2,095.78. After a stewards' enquiry, result stood.

2.50 BONUSPRINT STAYERS' HURDLE (Grade I: £43,435: 3m 110yd)
SHUIL AR AGHAIDH b m The Parson - Shuil Eile (Mrs M Kiely) 7-11-5 C Swan (20-1) 1.
Pragada b g Pragmatic - Adare Lady (Mrs M McGrane) 10-11-10 M Perrett (9-1) 2.
Baydon Star br g Mandalus - Leuze (Mrs S Robins) 6-11-10 R Dunwoody (3-1 fav) 3.
ALSO RAN: 4 Sweet Glow (5th), 6 Crystal Spirit, 11-2 Burgoyne, 14 Chirkpar, Vagog (pu), 16 Tyrone Bridge (pu), 25 Super Sense (6th), 33 Sweet Duke (4th), 100 Katti. 12 ran. 2½l, 3l, 8l, sh hd, 12l. P Kiely in Ireland. Tote: £22.20; £3.40, £2.30, £1.80. DF: £104.60. Trio: £95.60. CSF: £168.95. Tricast: £533.76.

3.30 TOTE CHELTENHAM GOLD CUP CHASE (Grade I: £99,448: 3m 2f 110yd)
JODAMI b g Crash Course - Masterstown Lucy (J Yeadon) 8-12-0 M Dwyer (8-1) 1.
Rushing Wild b g Rushmere - Lady Em II (Hunt & Co) 8-12-0 R Dunwoody (11-1) 2.
Royal Athlete ch g Roselier - Darjoy (G & L Johnson) 10-12-0 B de Haan (66-1) 3.
ALSO RAN: 5-4 fav The Fellow (4th), 8 Docklands Express (6th), 10 Chatam, 11 Run For Free, 14 Cahervillahow, 16 Cherrykino (f), 22 Sibton Abbey (5th), 25 Garrison Savannah, Tipping Tim, 50 Cool Ground, 66 Black Humour (f), Very Very Ordinary (pu), 200 Topsham Bay. 16 ran. NR: Another Coral, Bradbury Star, Gold Options, Kings Fountain. 2l, 7l, ½l, 4l, ¾l. P Beaumont at Brandsby. Tote: £11.00; £3.60, £3.60, £11.70. DF: £69.80. Trio: £1,361.80. CSF: £85.31. Tricast: £4,859.55.

4.05 CHRISTIES FOXHUNTER CHASE CHALLENGE CUP (£15,320: 3m 2f 110yd)
DOUBLE SILK b g Dubassoff - Yellow Silk (R Wilkins) 9-12-0 Mr R Treloggen (12-1) 1.
Kerry Orchid gr g Absalom - Matinata (P Curling) 5-11-4 Mr A J Martin (11-2 jt-fav) 2.
Once Stung br g Sandalay - Nenana (J Greenall) 7-12-0 Mr J Greenall (8-1) 3.
ALSO RAN: 11-2 jt-fav The Red One (ur), 6 Tourean Prince (4th), 7 Radical Views (f), 11 Tartan Trix (pu), Seven Of Diamonds, 14 Watercourse (pu), 16 Moorcroft Boy (5th), 20 Randolph Place (ur), 33 Duncan (pu), Holy Foley (pu), 40 Swinhoe Croft (6th), 50 Glen Lochan (pu), Some Obligation (pu), 100 Spring Fun (pu), 300 Sporting Mariner (pu). 18 ran. 1¾l, 5l, 12l, ¾l, 1l. R Wilkins at Bath. Tote: £11.80; £3.30, £2.30, £2.30. DF: £34.30. Trio: £97.80. CSF: £70.37.

4.40 121st YEAR OF THE CHELTENHAM GRAND ANNUAL CHASE CHALLENGE CUP (Handicap: £24,094: 2m 110yd)
SPACE FAIR b g Space King - Katie Fare (Osborne House Ltd) 10-11-1 A Maguire (5-1) 1.
Shamana b m Broadsword — Celestial Bride (Lord Northampton) 7-10-9 R Dunwoody (13-2) 2.
Storm Alert b g Strong Gale - Jet Travel (W Whetherly) 7-11-7 S McNeill (11-4 fav) 3.
ALSO RAN: 5 Young Pokey (4th), 10 Whatever You Like, 11 Setter Country (5th), 12 Alkinor Rex (f), Acre Hill, 20 Star's Delight (f), Private Audition (6th), 66 Sonsie Mo (f), 200 Gabish (pu). 12 ran. NR: Viking Flagship. 2l, 1l, 12l, 20l, 25l. R Lee at Presteigne. Tote: £5.70; £2.00, £2.00, £1.80. DF: £18.40. Trio: £17.80. CSF: £34.25. Tricast: £97.09.

5.15 CATHCART CHALLENGE CUP CHASE (£26,040: 2m 5f)
SECOND SCHEDUAL b g Golden Love - Gilleraga Girl (H McMahon) 8-11-3 A Maguire (6-1) 1.
General Idea ch g General Assembly - Idealist (M Smurfit) 8-11-7 B Sheridan (5-2 fav) 2.
Armagret b g Mandrake Major - Friendly Glen (Mrs R Wilkinson) 8-11-3 D Byrne (11-2) 3.
ALSO RAN: 3 The Illywhacker (f), 5 Tinryland (5th), 14 Forest Sun (4th), 20 Among Friends (bd). 7 ran. Hd, 6l, 1l, dist. A Moore in Ireland. Tote: £8.20; £3.00, £2.00. DF: £11.60. CSF: £19.13.

5.50 74th YEAR OF THE TOTE COUNTY HANDICAP HURDLE (Grade III: £22,805: 2m 1f)
THUMBS UP b g Fidel - Misclaire (M Buckley) 7-10-2 R Dunwoody (16-1) 1.
High Baron br g Baron Blakeney - High Finesse (R Alner) 6-10-9 M Hourigan (8-1) 2.
Spinning b or br g Glint Of Gold - Strathspey (P Mellon) 6-10-10 J Frost (7-4 fav) 3.
Hashar b h Darshaan - Hazy Idea (W Brown) 5-10-1 P Holley (25-1) 4.
ALSO RAN: 8 Mubadir, 10 Blotoftabarner, Shu Fly (pu), 12 Masai Mara, 14 Dancing Paddy, 16 Good For A Loan, 20 Glencloud, Assuring (6th), 25 Duharra (ur), 33 Diamond Cut, Doran's Town Lad, Done Instantly (5th), 50 Willie Sparkle, 100 Rowlandsons Gems (pu), 200 Pardon Me Sir, Train Robber, Wings Of Freedom. 21 ran. NR: Atone. 6l, 1l, ¾l, 1½l, 1l. N Henderson at Lambourn. Tote: £12.90; £2.20, £2.50, £1.80, £6.40. DF: £91.70. Trio: £65.70. CSF: £132.61. Tricast: £314.96.

Jackpot: not won (pool of £110,792.21 carried forward to Lingfield today).

Placepot: £532.10.

Hexham

Going: good

2.00 (2m hdle) 1, Precipice Run (N Doughty, 10-1); 2, Trevweethan (14-1); 3, Wee Wizard (14-1). Grey Power 11-8 fav. 18 ran. 6l, 1¾l. G Richards. Tote: £19.40; £3.40, £6.70, £2.30. DF: £700.00. CSF: £150.40.

2.35 (2m 110yd ch) 1, One For The Pot (A Orkney, 11-4); 2, Maclennon (9-4 fav); 3, Over The Styx (16-1). 12 ran. 1l, 4l. M Naughton. Tote: £2.30; £1.30, £1.40, £2.20. DF: £2.70. CSF: £9.21.

3.15 (3m hdle) 1, Aahsaylad (K Comerford, evens fav); 2, Latour (16-1); 3, Royal Stream (20-1). 13 ran. NR: Larloch, Ocean Rose. Dist, 25l. J White. Tote: £1.30; £1.10, £4.60, £7.10. DF: £11.40. CSF: £19.07.

3.50 (4m ch) 1, Man's Best Friend (C Grant, 7-2); 2, Magic Rain (33-1); 3, Dubious Jake (9-2). Barren 2-1 fav. 8 ran. 6l, 20l. T Tate. Tote: £4.40; £2.30, £11.00, £1.10. DF: £98.80. CSF: £76.03. Tricast: £479.21

4.25 (2m hdle) 1, Cosmic Ray (C Woodall, 8-1); 2, The Green Fool (4-1); 3, Yamanouchi (4-1). Timurs Double 7-2 fav. 8 ran. 1l, 8l. Mrs V Aconley. Tote: £12.70; £2.00, £1.70, £1.20. DF: £19.00. CSF: £29.16. Tricast: £98.81.

5.00 (3m 1f ch) 1, Mutual Trust (N Doughty, 11-8 fav); 2, Pink Gin (11-4); 3, Forth And Tay (10-1). 12 ran. 7l, nk. G Richards. Tote: £2.10; £1.20, £2.20, £3.40. DF: £5.80. CSF: £5.67. Tricast: £28.82.

5.35 (2m flat) 1, Capenwray (A Lamach 3-1 fav); 2, Amadeus (12-1); 3, Bidesion (6-1). 21 ran. 6l, 1½l. R Fisher. Tote: £12.90; £2.00, £6.80, £3.20. DF: £69.70. CSF: £56.04.

Placepot: £668.60.

Southwell

Going: standard

2.10 (1m) 1, Mentalasanythin (A Mackay, 4-1 fav); 2, Ripsnorter (11-2); 3, Ounzi Marm (6-1). 11 ran. 1l, 2½l. A Bailey. Tote: £5.40; £2.20, £2.00, £3.40. DF: £22.70. CSF: £26.98. Tricast: £125.45.

2.40 (6f) 1, Lam Fort (J Fanning, 10-1); 2, Tanagome (3-1); 3, Stardust Express (2-1 fav). 9 ran. Hd, 1l. T Fairhurst. Tote: £38.80; £3.50, £1.40, £1.10. DF: £19.30. CSF: £42.53.

3.10 (7f) 1, Appledorn (T Quinn, 9-1); 2, Rural Lad (7-1); 3, Dream Carrier (7-4 fav). 8 ran. NR: Pesidanamich. 1½l, 1l. B McMahon. Tote: £5.50; £2.10, £1.80, £1.50. DF: £26.90. CSF: £64.81. Tricast: £147.53.

3.45 (6f) 1, Celestial Key (O Pears, 8-1); 2, Lucayan Treasure (4-5 fav); 3, Wintering (6-1). 7 ran. ½l, 10l. S Norton. Tote: £12.70; £7.10, £1.10. DF: £26.30. CSF: £15.62.

4.15 (1m 4f) 1, Tempering (S Wood, 2-5 fav); 2, Red Indian (6-1); 3, Eliza Wooding (12-1). 11 ran. 4l, 15l. D Chapman. Tote: £1.40; £1.20, £1.40, £2.20. DF: £3.30. CSF: £4.92.

4.45 (1m 6f) 1, Steppey Lane (Dean McKeown, 7-1); 2, Sugemar (13-2); 3, Well And Truly (5-1). Hitsah 5-2 fav. 12 ran. 1l, 4l. W Haigh. Tote: £10.20; £2.00, £1.90, £2.10. DF: £19.60. CSF: £54.15. Tricast: £233.64.

Placepot: £17.60.

☐ Cheltenham crowds over the three days rose to 120,381 from the 118,786 of last year. Final day figures were up 1,388 to 51,330.

Aahsaylad win sparks enquiry

AAHSAYLAD's return to form at Hexham yesterday prompted the stewards to hold an enquiry into his improvement. Pulled up on his previous appearance at Chepstow, Aahsaylad galloped clear to win the Riding Mill Novices' Hurdle by a distance.

The stewards accepted the explanation that he had finished distressed at Chepstow and had been found to have a heart disorder. Rick Pusey, travelling head lad to John White, the winning trainer, said: "The plan had been to go for the Sun Alliance Hurdle but we brought him here for a confidence-booster instead."

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FAKENHAM	101	201	301
LINGFIELD PK	102	202	302
W'HAMPTON	103	203	303
GREYHOUNDS	122	222	322

Elite tread fine line at badminton's Wimbledon



FREUD ON FRIDAY

LORD'S today. C.B. Fry would write, and the world knew that it was going to be one of the great man's cricketing pieces.

Wembley is not like that: Wembley is multi-faceted, boasting a stadium where cup finals are fought and greyhounds run. And there is the Arena, where Foxhunter jumped in the Horse of the Year show, Joe Bugner took Henry Cooper's British heavyweight title — the referee was the only person to think so, but you will find the result in the record books — and I saw Cinderella on ice.

In an adjacent conference centre, we Liberals once held a special assembly and tried to wow the electorate with the promise of "Site Valuation Rating in our Lifetime"; following us in was the Delicatessen Show, where I discovered some outstanding goats' cheeses made on the Welsh borders.

Wembley today, also yesterday and tomorrow, is about badminton. You may know badminton as a pastime often pursued by those who need exercise and have a black spot when it comes to ball games — where the likelihood of anyone but a fond aunt coming to witness the game is slim.

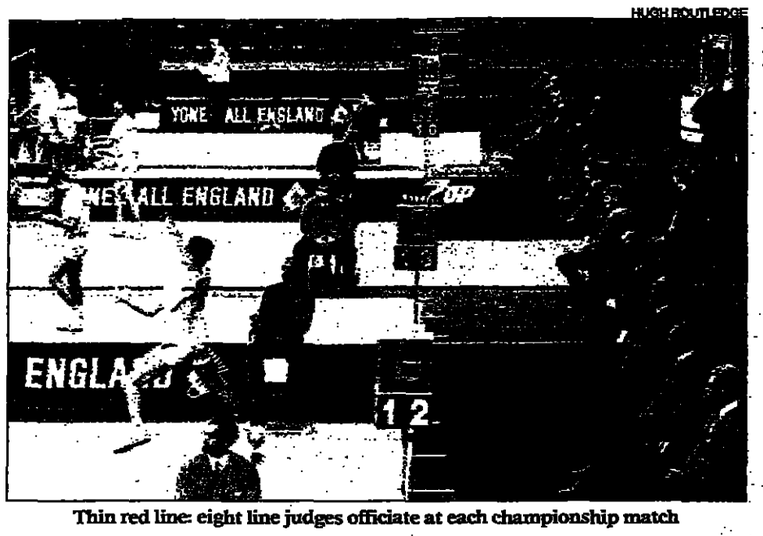
This is a horse of a different colour. The Yonex All-England championships are the Wimbledon of badminton — and as with Wimbledon, we have not won a men's title for 50 years. The Chinese, Indonesians and Malaysians have the game wrapped up, with crumbs from the table falling to the Danes.

I arrived at 8pm and found security admirably tight. I have had less trouble walking into United Nations headquarters. I finally made it into the hall, where there is ramped seating for over 7,000, though in the early stages of the competition the crowd is thin.

Games are played simultaneously on six courts, each with a blue-blazered umpire in a raised chair, a service judge sitting on the far side of the net from the elevated one, and eight line judges in red jerseys, who signal that the shuttlecock has dropped outside the court as cricket umpires signal a wide.

For every two courts there is a young man or girl with a mop, ready to wipe the surface should fluff, skid-marks or perspiration cause it to be anything but hard and true. (Across the road at the Wembley greyhound stadium, it may well be their uncles who follow the parading dogs with dustpan and brush to perform a similar service.)

It takes some time to become accustomed to what is going on, also to decide whether to concentrate on a particular game or, as I do at bingo, sit back and take a broad view of half a dozen. There are men's and women's singles, doubles and mixed pairs. The matches are best of three games, a game is won by the first player to reach 15 points, and points count only when the server wins; when the server loses, the service changes. For the benefit of spectators, players' numbers are displayed on illuminated corner posts on which are mounted lights to denote the score. Matches take about an hour; there is a break between games, and the players change sides regularly.



HUGH ROUTLEDGE

Thin red line: eight line judges officiate at each championship match

To the uninitiated, every game is so skilful, fast and accurate that you sit and stare, believe that this is, must be, the champion. Then, like the Cincinnati Kid, whose first losing bet was when he staked all his money on Louisville being the largest city in the world, you begin to see that while all the players are brilliant, some are manifestly more brilliant than others.

Their returns are harder, are often directed hard and straight at their opponents' stomachs, they jump in the air higher to obtain a better angle for a smash; their reactions are marginally faster, their sureness of touch more certain, and in the midst of taking and zipping the shuttlecock across the net at high velocity, the very best ones will know instinctively whether it should be hit, or left to fall a centimetre beyond the line.

I watched Anders Nielsen (England) play the seeded Foo Kok Keong of Malaysia. Nielsen was 8-4 ahead in the final set; his opponent, No. 44 (there will not follow a joke about Chinese restaurant menus) achieved a net cord — this causes the shuttlecock to die like a bird — and never looked back. On the adjacent court, Joko Suprianto of Indonesia, seeded No. 2, beat our Mr Butler 15-1, 15-1.

After an hour, I go out to find sustenance. A man sells frozen yoghurt, a healthy confection, and on his counter are cans of lager marked Heldenbrau, best before 11th December 1992. On the night of the Bugner-Cooper fight, there was a queue for lager that stretched around the block; badminton is not a drinking sport, there are, says the woman in the Press Office, no English badminton louts . . . though these exist in Denmark.

I speak to an erstwhile competitor in the small, knowledgeable crowd. Men peak at 26 or so, women a couple of years later. It is no longer a game of guile and cunning in which the wily old can beat the enthusiastic youth. Fitness beats cunning. Stamina is the most important aspect . . . and yes, the game is going through a financial crisis although Yonex, the Japanese clothing and sports equipment company, has signed a five-year badminton sponsorship agreement.

A former competitor, a woman who will not see 28 again, lowered her voice to tell me that the line judges' red jerseys have to be handed in at the end of the tournament on Saturday night.

Bowlers unable to stop Sri Lanka completing historic five-wicket Test victory

Fletcher calls for change as England surrender

FROM PETER BALL IN COLOMBO

AFTER England's dismal winter tour plumbed new depths with their first Test defeat by Sri Lanka, Keith Fletcher, the team manager, admitted here yesterday that his team is not good enough. He predicted important changes in the side to play Australia this summer.

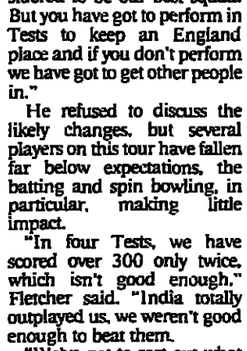
"It was bitterly disappointing that we lost 3-0 in India and I've been going over the reasons why in my mind constantly," Fletcher said after watching his team suffer their fifth consecutive Test defeat. "There have got be some changes made and there will be changes made.

"We brought what we considered to be our best squad. But you have got to perform in Tests to keep an England place and if you don't perform we have got to get other people in."

He refused to discuss the likely changes, but several players on this tour have fallen far below expectations, the batting and spin bowling, in particular, making little impact.

"In four Tests, we have scored over 300 only twice, which isn't good enough," Fletcher said. "India totally outplayed us, we weren't good enough to beat them.

"We've got to sort out what is the best team to play Australia and then decide what is the best itinerary to enable us to play well in the West Indies. The itinerary here, with no cricket between the Tests, has meant that Paul Taylor hasn't bowled for six weeks, which is ridiculous, and Michael Atherton had to go into a Test match not having played for three weeks. The itinerary is unfair to players."



Emburey: improvement

Fletcher will address both points on his return, but they do not disguise the paucity of the team's performances, which ended here with Sri Lanka duly claiming their first Test victory over England. Although the bowlers made them work to the end, England paid the penalty for their slipshod batting and Sri Lanka won by five wickets in the first over after tea.

It was only Sri Lanka's fourth victory in 43 Tests and the most momentous for the home crowd, which had grown to 6,000 by the time Jayasuriya arrived to pull Tufnell for six to seal victory. It was England's fourth Test defeat of the tour.

Yesterday, though, they salvaged a little self-respect as, on a spinner's wicket, John Emburey produced his best performance of a dismal tour. Yet with Sri Lanka needing only 140 runs to win, even that was too little, too late. Chris Lewis was again the pick of the attack, but Tufnell was a shadow of the bowler he was, finding the occasional biting ball but lacking consistency.

After Emburey's best spell, the match was in the balance at 61 for four. Then, however, Ranatunga, the captain, and Tillekeratne saw their side to the brink of victory before Ranatunga, the sole Sri Lankan survivor of the first meeting between the two countries, here on Fletcher's tour 11 years ago, fell.

Tillekeratne has played three innings against England in the last ten days and they have never looked like dismissing him. He is a well-organised left-hander and his driving, particularly through the on side, marks him as a player of the highest class.

The ease with which Tillakeratne ultimately coped with the England spinners pointed to England's real failure, the depressing batting performance in their second innings. If cricket is a game played largely in the mind, the English batting was paranoid.

Hopes that the last-wicket pair could continue the resistance of Wednesday were swiftly dashed yesterday. Malcolm showed a resolutely straight bat but, in attempting to keep the bowling, Emburey played across the line. Only two runs had been added.

England had little enough to protect, but Lewis steamed in optimistically. Mahanama fell in his second over and, had Atherton held on after making a spectacular leap at gully, to remove Hathurusinghe, Sri Lanka would have been 15 for two. Instead, as Lewis tired, Sri Lanka began to break the shackles, reaching lunch at 43 for one. Steady progress seemed assured.

Emburey had other ideas, however. First restricting Gurusinha's off-side shots, he persuaded the left-hander to chop the ball on to his stumps in his eagerness to escape. De Silva, who prefers pace, did not settle as Tufnell also entered the attack and he soon pulled Emburey straight to backward square-leg.

When Tufnell got a ball to bounce and turn at Hathurusinghe, Sri Lanka had lost three wickets for 13 in seven overs. Ranatunga and Tillekeratne remained calm, however, picking the balls to hit with quiet certainty to steer their side through.



GRAHAM MORRIS

Bitter taste of defeat: Fletcher ponders England's latest Test match failure in Colombo yesterday

COLOMBO SCOREBOARD

ENGLAND

First Innings 350 (R A Smith 128, G A Hick 58, A J Stewart 63, K P J Warnaweera 4 for 90, M Muralitharan 4 for 118).

Second Innings

	6s	4s	Min	Ball
R A Smith b Jayasuriya ... 35	-	4	96	71
Sweeping against ball pitched in rough				
M A Atherton c Tillekeratne b Gurusinha 2	-	-	18	11
Weak cut to square gully				
M W Gatting c Tillekeratne b Warnaweera 18	-	4	26	17
Pushing forward to short leg				
G A Hick c Ramanayake b W'weera ... 26	1	2	56	28
Top-edged drive to deep square leg				
*†A J Stewart c Mahanama b W'weera 3	-	-	16	14
Ball deflected to stp				
N H Fairbrother run out (Muralitharan-Warnaweera) ... 3	-	-	39	16
Stranded by quick return from third man				
C C Lewis c Jayasuriya b Muralitharan 45	-	7	62	51
Bat-pad to short leg				
J E Emburey b Gurusinha ... 59	-	5	148	151
Beaten off pitch				
P W Jarvis st A M de Silva b Jayasuriya 3	-	-	26	13
Missed forward defensive shot				
P C R Tufnell c A M de Silva b W'weera 1	-	-	22	15
Attempting push on leg side				
D E Malcolm not out ... 8	-	1	64	30
Extras (b 4, lb 2, w 1, nb 18) ... 25				
Total (296 min, 66 overs) ... 228				

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-16 (Smith 12), 2-38 (Smith 15), 3-83 (Hick 20), 4-91 (Stewart 0), 5-96 (Fairbrother 1), 6-130 (Lewis 26), 7-153 (Emburey 1), 8-173 (Emburey 17), 9-188 (Emburey 29).

BOWLING: Ramanayake 3-0-16-0 (nb 2) (one spell); Gurusinha 8-3-7-2 (3-1-6-1, 3-2-1-1); Warnaweera 25-4-98-4 (nb 16) (14-1-63-3, 3-1-14-0, 5-2-21-1); Muralitharan 16-3-55-1 (5-0-27-0, 6-2-20-1, 3-1-8-0), Jayasuriya 16-3-46-2 (nb 3, w 1) (10-3-29-1, 5-0-15-1, 1-0-2-0).

SRI LANKA

First Innings 469 (H P Tillekeratne 93 not out, P A de Silva 80, R S Mahanama 64, A Ranatunga 64, U C Hathurusinghe 59; C C Lewis 4 for 66).

Second Innings

	6s	4s	Min	Ball
R S Mahanama c Stewart b Lewis ... 6	0	0	13	11
attempting leg-glance				
U C Hathurusinghe c Stewart b Tufnell 14	0	1	120	89
diving catch on leg side				
A P Gurusinha b Emburey ... 29	0	3	74	46
played round off break				
P A de Silva c Jarvis b Emburey ... 7	0	1	23	17
forcing shot to backward square-leg				
*A Ranatunga c Gatting b Tufnell ... 35	0	3	87	56
prod to short-leg				
H P Tillekeratne not out ... 36	0	6	81	62
S T Jayasuriya not out ... 6	1	0	1	1
Extras (b 1, lb 2, nb 6) ... 9				
Total (5 wkts, 205 min, 42.4 overs) ... 142				

†A M de Silva, C P H Ramanayake, M Muralitharan and K P J Warnaweera did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-8 (Hathurusinghe 1), 2-48 (Hathurusinghe 9), 3-61 (Hathurusinghe 14), 4-61 (Ranatunga 0), 5-136 (Tillekeratne 36).

BOWLING: Lewis 8-1-21-1 (nb 1) (5-1-17-1, 3-0-4-0); Jarvis 8-2-14-0 (nb 1) (3-0-8-0, 3-1-4-0, 2-1-2-0); Malcolm 3-1-11-0 (one spell); Emburey 14-2-48-2 (nb 4) (9-2-26-2, 1-0-8-0, 4-0-16-0); Tufnell 7.4-1-34-2 (5-1-18-1, 2-0-6-0, 0.4-0-10-1). Hick 2-0-11-0 (one spell).

Man of the match: H P Tillekeratne.

Umpires: K T Francis and T M Samarasinghe.

Sri Lanka won by 5 wickets

Restless night fails to halt Smith

BY RICHARD EATON

FIONA Smith became the home country's only singles quarter-finalist at the All-England championships at Wembley yesterday, even though her two-year-old son woke her three times the night before. The triple Commonwealth Games gold medal winner won 11-5, 11-8 against Tanja Berg, a Danish qualifier, but overcoming the broken sleep was almost as big an achievement.

"If you had asked me two years ago whether I could have this amount of sleep and still play properly, I would have said it was impossible," Smith said. She narrowly failed to qualify for the Olympics after the birth of her son, Oliver. "But you get used to it, your body adapts."

Darren Hall, England's only other singles hope in the championships, failed to reach the quarter-finals, although he produced a far livelier performance than during his two opening-day victories. He was beaten 15-11, 15-9 by the top seed, Heryanto Arbi. The nimble Indonesian was rarely threatened. When he was, he unleashed spectacular airborne attacks, both with flat clears and with smashes.

Liu Jun, the title holder, surprisingly reached the quarter-finals. The Chinese player, seeded only to reach the last 16 and a controversial champion after accusations that his country had played as a team to get an extra man into the Olympics, won 15-13, 15-5 against Hermawan Susanto, of Indonesia, a bronze medal-winner in Barcelona.

The women's top seed, Susi Susanti, reached the quarter-finals only after saving a game point in the second game against Christine Magnusson, the Ugandan-born Swede. Allan Budi Kusuma, the Olympic champion, was beaten 18-14, 15-8 by Foo Kok Keong, of Malaysia.

England's best hopes, Gill Clark and Gillian Gowers, beat Helene Kirkegaard and Rikke Olsen, of Denmark in the women's doubles.

results, page 40

Golding clinches win after tedious finish

FROM BARRY PICKTHALL IN CAPE TOWN

MIKE Golding and his Group 4 Securitas crew were banging the decks of their yacht in frustration yesterday after spending much of the day becalmed within the shadows of Table Mountain, close to the third stage finish of the British Steel Challenge at Cape Town.

Golding's men, who have led this 6,800-mile stage from Hobart for the past month, rounded Cape Point at 8am, then waited in vain for the breeze to fill in, taking more than 12 hours to cover the final 30 miles.

"It's been a bad day, but a great leg," the Berkshire fireman said when Group 4 finally made it across the line shortly after 6.30 last night. "The weather has been very different to the last leg across the Pacific, with some very big storms, but we got into a good rhythm early on and the weather patterns became so regular we could plan our meals around them.

Their yacht, which was slowed by two rigging screw failures on the last stage, suffered little damage this time. "We lost our big spinnaker the first day and our steering wheel was bent when a huge wave washed over the boat, sweeping the crew off their feet. Trevor Harvey, who was steering, held on instead of being washed over the stern, and his weight pulled the wheel and compass binnacle four inches out of line," Golding said.

Harvey recovered from his ordeal, but fellow crewman Simon Littlejohn has an appointment at the hospital today after tearing some knee ligaments.

DETAILS

LATEST POSITIONS (at 15:00 GMT yesterday, with miles to Cape Town): 1, Group 4 Securitas (M Golding), 17; equal 2, Nuclear Electric (J Chittenden) and Holsbrau Lager (P Goss), 121; 4, Compass & Lydsand (V Cherry), 282; 5, Heath Insured (A Donovan), 292; 6, Rhone-Poulenc (P Phillips), 312; 7, Intersprey (P Jeffes), 376; 8, British Steel II (R Tudor), 377; 9, Commercial Union (R Mamwether), 389; 10, Pride of Teesside (I MacGillivray), 487.

☐ Compiled by British Telecom

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	U	Piste	Conditions Runs to resort	Weather	Temp °C	Last snow fall
AUSTRIA							
Kitzbühel ...	15	110	variable	patchy	fine	10	7/3
(Best in Pass Thurn; base wearing down on lower)							
Mayrhofen ...	15	100	fair	closed	sunny	9	7/3
(Spring snow on south-facing slopes; bare patches in valley)							
Schladming ...	30	150	variable	open	cloudy	8	7/3
(Artificial snow on lower slopes; best above mid-station)							
St Anton ...	40	380	good	worn	clear	8	17/3
(Light dusting of fresh snow on upper slopes)							
FRANCE							
Les Deux Alpes ..	20	200	fair	closed	sunny	4	3/3
(Hard-packed on upper slopes; 60% of ski area open)							
Megève ...	0	140	fair	closed	sunny	16	4/3
(Runs below 1,800m closed; spring snow on upper slopes)							
Tignes ...	150	350	good	open	bright	1	3/3
(Run to Les Brevières at 1,550m open; all pistes groomed)							
Valloire ...	10	100	fair	worn	sunny	17	4/3
(Spring snow all levels; 40% of ski area open)							
ITALY							
Cortina ...	15	80	good	most	sunny	10	1/3
(Lower slopes icy in morning)							
Sestriere ...	100	200	good	open	sunny	6	2/3
(Spring snow on upper runs; compact lower runs; all runs open)							
SWITZERLAND							
Saas Fee ...	40	270	good	open	sunny	8	4/3
(Hard-packed on upper runs; all pistes open)							
Verbier ...	15	110	mixed	thin	sunny	8	3/3
(Dry on hard base on glacier; wet patches on lower slopes)							
Wengen ...	15	80	variable	closed	fine	7	3/3
(Mild temperatures diminishing depths; spring snow in morning)							
Zermatt ...	50	180	good	open	sunny	6	4/3
(Links with Italy open; best on glacier; all lifts open)							

Information supplied by Ski Hotline

Pakistanis start confidently against Jamaica

FROM JOHN WOODCOCK IN KINGSTON JAMAICA

FIELDING, with one exception, the side that may be expected to play in the first of the five one-day internationals next Tuesday, the Pakistanis made a comfortable start in the opening match of their tour against Jamaica here yesterday. Soon after lunch they were 122 for one, having chosen to take first use of an accommodating pitch.

Of Pakistan's top players only Javed Miandad, who was pinned on the instep by Wasim Akram in the nets on Tuesday, was missing. I remember Peter Loader temporarily crippling Colin Cowdrey in the Melbourne nets once, when he suddenly threw a ball to achieve extra pace; but no one has yet suggested that Akram did anything unusual with the ball this time to beat Javed with extra swing. Javed is moving well enough and is said never to have batted much better than he did when scoring 107 against South Africa in East London last month.

Pretexts were found yesterday for the omission of Courtney Walsh and Patrick Patterson from the Jamaican side. In fact, of course, the Pakistanis were being denied the chance of an acclimatizing outing against genuine speed. The best and fastest of the Jamaican opening bowlers was Franklyn Rose, a young beanstalk with a long run and a good living ahead of him, no doubt, as a testing proposition on pitches with more life in them than this one.

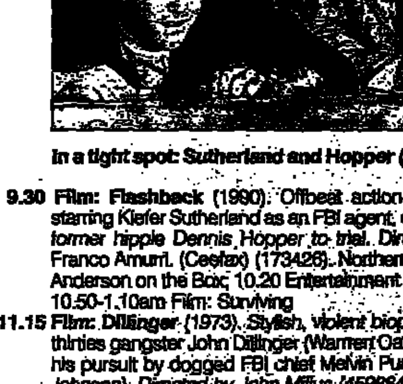
Pakistan's return from the morning's play (101 from 30 overs) although perfectly respectable would have been a good many more but for the pace of the outfield. It was green and meadow slow, which is a pity when, in public perception, free scoring helps to compensate for the ever-declining over-rate. But it is the same almost everywhere these days. Even on Surrey's little ground at Guildford it is almost easier to hit sixes than fours.

With the spinners (Haynes with leg breaks and Adams with orthodox left-arm spin) being given an early chance, yesterday's play was not so much a preparation for the life in the fast lane which lies ahead of the Pakistanis as a gentle jog in the sunshine. Perry, a third spinner, had gone off after hurting himself while parrying a catch at slip off Rose, otherwise Sohail and Inzaman might have felt even more indulged than they must have done.

☐ New Zealand batsman Ken Rutherford predicted yesterday that his new international team-mate, Jeff Wilson, has great potential. Wilson, 19, an all-rounder, is in the 13-man New Zealand squad for five one-day internationals against Australia starting on Friday at Carisbrook. Rutherford captains Wilson in the Otago provincial team.

BBC1

6.00 Business Breakfast (38074)
7.00 Breakfast News (75053722)
9.05 Kilroy. Robert Kilroy-Silk chairs a topical discussion (s) (5133345)
9.45 Ross King. Quiz show (s) (4429074)
10.00 News, regional news and weather (2124677) **10.05 Playdays** *at the Tent Stop* (s) (7152277)
10.30 Good Morning ... with Anne and Nick. Anne Diamond and Nick Owen present the family magazine show. Including at **11.00** and **12.00 News**. (Ceefax) and weather (56719364)
12.15 Pebble Mill. Alan Titchmarsh *is joined by the singer* Helen Shapiro (s) (6464548) **12.55 Regional news** and weather (29776987)
1.00 One O'Clock News with Philip Hayton. (Ceefax) Weather (90797)
1.30 Neighbours. (Ceefax) (s) (16247695)
1.50 Eldorado. Wednesday evening's episode (r). *(Ceefax)* (s) (35722345)
2.20 First Letter First. Don Maclean *presents the fourth* semi-final (s) (79120109)
2.45 The Flying Doctors. Airborne drama with the *Australian medics (s)* (2011600)
3.30 Cartoon Double Bill (8888819)
3.45 Children's BBC: Juniper Jungle. Cartoon (s) (2268890) ***3.55 Rude Dog and the Dweebs***. Animation (8794426) **4.10 The Chipmunks** *(r)* (1609548) **4.20 The Really Wild Show**. Michaela Strachan hunts truffles in France and Terry Nutkins *catches a rare glimpse of the elusive capercaillie.* (Ceefax) (s) (9252616) **4.45 Two Weeks with the Queen**. Kristian Schmid reads the final part of this week's story (3868093) **5.00 Newsround Extra** (2494513) **5.10 Billy Webb's Amazing Story**. *Part* two (r). (Ceefax) (s) (4360567)
5.35 Neighbours (r). (Ceefax) (s) (135161). Northern Ireland: *Inside Ulster*
6.00 Six O'Clock News with Peter Sissons and Moira Stuart. (Ceefax) Weather (635)
6.30 Regional news magazines (987). Northern Ireland: Neighbours (r). (Ceefax) (s)
7.00 Eldorado. (Ceefax) (s) (6971)
7.30 Entertainment Express. Gerry Anderson, the *creator of Thunderbirds*, talks about his new-animated feature, *Space Police*; and there is an interview with Cliff Richard. (Ceefax) (s) (971). Northern Ireland: Sportscene
8.00 All Creatures Great and Small: *The Prodigal Returns*. The first of three repeated episodes, based on the books by Yorkshire vet James Herriot. Siegfried *plans* to keep wayward brother Tristan on the straight and narrow. Starring Christopher Timothy, Robert Hardy and Peter Davison. (r). (Ceefax) (362971) **8.50 Points of View** (s) (831074)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News *with Michael Buerk. (Ceefax)*. Regional news and weather (5890)

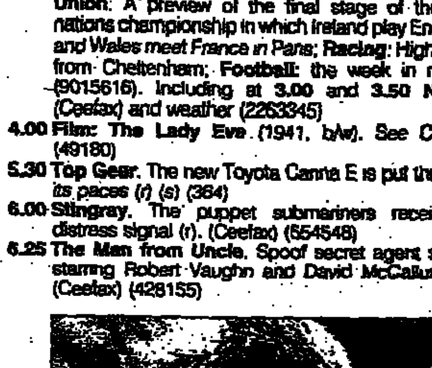


In a tight spot: Sutherland and Hopper (9.30pm)

9.30 Film: Flashback (1990). Offbeat action comedy starring Kiefer Sutherland as an FBI agent escorting *former hippie* Dennis Hopper *to trial. Directed by* Franco Amurri. (Ceefax) (173426). Northern Ireland: Anderson on the Box; 10.20 Entertainment Express; 10.50-1.10am Film: Surviving
11.15 Film: Dillinger (1973). *Stylish, violent biopic of the* thirties gangster John Dillinger (Warren Oates), and his pursuit by dogged FBI chief Melvin Purvis (Ben Johnson). *Directed by* John Milius (459864)
1.00am Weather (4991391)

BBC2

6.45 Open University: Maths — Simple Harmonic Motion (4101426) **7.10** History of Mathematics — the Ancient Greeks (3775364) **7.35** Maths — Tutor-Marked Assignments (7881567)
8.00 Breakfast News (3266600)
8.15 Westminster. News from Parliament (4419242)
9.00 Daytime on Two. Educational programmes, including for children **1.20 Postman Pat** (57178884) *and* **1.35 *Bunyip*** (88524426)
2.15 Jumpcuts. A preview of this weekend's Open University programmes (r) (67587722)
2.20 Sport on Friday, introduced by Helen Rollason. The *line-up includes* **Basketball**: *The Blue Circle* All-Star game from Granby Halls, Leicester; **Rugby Union**: A preview of the final stage of the five nations championship in which Ireland play England *and Wales meet France in Paris*; **Racing**: *Highlights* from Cheltenham; **Football**: the week in review (9015616). Including at **3.00** and **3.50 News**. *(Ceefax)* and weather (2263345)
4.00 Film: The Lady Eve (1941, b/w). *See Choice* (49180)
5.30 Top Gear. The new Toyota Carina E is put through *its paces (r) (s)* (384)
6.00 Stingray. The puppet submariners receive a distress signal (r). (Ceefax) (654548)
6.25 The Man from Uncle. Spoof secret agent series starring Robert Vaughn and David McCallum *(r)*. (Ceefax) (428155)



Journey into space: Colin Baker (7.15pm)

7.15 Doctor Who: *Revelation of the Daleks*. Colin Baker stars in the first episode of a four-part story. The intrepid time-traveller lands the Tardis on the planet Necros (r). (Ceefax) (214636)
7.40 What the Papers Say presented by John Diamond of *The Times* (837836)
8.00 Public Eye. Debi Davies investigates the dishonest *solicitors who cost the Law Society millions of* pounds in compensation (6161)
8.30 Gardeners' World visits a modern apothecary's garden in Petersfield and an elegant greenhouse at *the Oxfordshire home of a retired antiques dealer*; and looks at species of trees indigenous to the British Isles. (Ceefax) (s) (9068)
9.00 Red Dwarf V: Terrorform. Space comedy starring Chris Barrie and Craig Charles *(r)*. (Ceefax) (3432)
9.30 Arena: Philip Roth. See Choice (62451)
10.30 Newsnight with Peter Snow (651277)
11.15 Weather (850838)
11.20 Heimat: Little Hermann. Part nine of the masterly study of the lives of three German families from the end of the first world war to the 1980s. In German *with English subtitles (r)* (98712426). *Ends at* **1.45am**. Wales: 11.20 Wales in Westminster; 11.50-2.10am Heimat.

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CHOICE



Fictional alter egos: Philip Roth (BBC2, 9.30pm)

Arena: Philip Roth
BBC2, 9.30pm

The American Jewish writer gives his first television interview for more than 20 years. There are good *reasons for talking* to Roth at this time. *He is* celebrating his sixtieth birthday and has a new book coming out. The film highlights two themes that have pursued Roth through his writing career. One is his alleged anti-Semitism. The other is his tendency to mix fact and fiction by putting thinly disguised versions of himself in his novels. To the first he pleads not guilty. *Roth admits to satirising his race but not to hating it.* As for writing about himself, he cannot completely deny it. Besides, in his latest novel, *Operation Shylock*, the central character is Philip Roth. That should remove the doubts. But does it?

Citizen 2000: Getting Together
Channel 4, 8.00pm

The series following 20 children born in Britain in 1982 brings them together for a weekend away. The question is whether youngsters from different religions and social backgrounds will get on together without parental presence. Gradually we are reminded of the social spread. One dad has a 1,000-acre farm, another is a taxi driver. The weekend starts amicably with balloons and a *sing-song. The girls and the boys tend* to gang up but soon they are playing what one minder calls "pre-sexual games". Curiously we hear a lot from *the adults but hardly anything from the children.* Perhaps *Citizen 2000* is trying to distance itself from Granada Television's not dissimilar *Seven-Up*. Or perhaps the kids will have their say next week.

Dr Finlay: Winning the Peace
ITV, 9.00pm

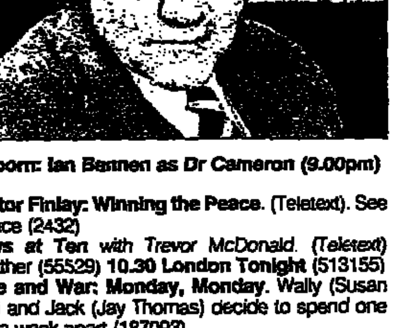
The BBC, who are not overburdened with good popular dramas, must be kicking themselves for not getting in first with the revival of their own Sixties hit. Tonight's episode is only the third but *Dr Finlay* is already a winner. All the decisions have been *vindicated*. The casting of Ian Bannen, David Rintoul and Annette Crosbie is so good that surely no one can be yearning for Andrew Cruickshank, Bill Simpson and Barbara Mullen. Jason Flemying is shaping *splendidly as the pushy young locum. Bringing the* period forward to 1946 has enabled the series to engage with the aftermath of war and the prospect of a National Health Service. Perhaps most important, the *stories are hard-edged without being harrowing.*

Film: The Lady Eve
BBC2, 4.00pm

One of the finest romantic comedies of Hollywood's golden age stars Barbara Stanwyck as a confidence trickster determined to trap callow millionaire Henry Fonda. Curiously, in view of their assured performances, *neither of the stars had appeared much in comedy before.* Stanwyck was noted for her portrayal of suffering heroines, Fonda for playing upright heroes such as the young Abraham Lincoln. *The Lady Eve changed both their careers. The initial* battleground is an ocean liner where Stanwyck tries to cheat Fonda at cards. Hostilities resume at Fonda's Connecticut mansion, with Stanwyck disguised as an *English aristocrat. Preston Sturges directs with pace,* energy and acerbic wit. **Peter Waymark**

ITV LONDON

6.00 GMTV (9752906)
9.25 Jeopardy! Steve Jones hosts the daily quiz (3516971) **9.55 London Today** (7065797)
10.00 The Time ... The Place ... (1757722)
10.35 This Morning Richard Madeley and Judy Finnigan present features on counselling and therapy and tips on decorating (70114762)
12.10 Tots TV. Children's puppet series (s) (6946529)
12.30 ITN Lunchtime News with Nicholas Owen and Sonia Ruseler (Teletext) Weather (4061161) **1.05 London Today** (57266093)
1.15 Home and Away (Teletext) (514258) **1.45 A *Country Practice*** *Medical drama* (s) (513529)
2.15 Life Goes On: Ordinary Heroes. American drama series. Drew (Bill Smitrovich) decides to become a restaurateur (7780451)
3.10 *ITN News* Headlines (3735890) **3.15 London Today** (3734161) **3.20 Blockbusters**. Sixth-formers test their general knowledge (s) (9979432)
3.50 Children's ITV: Thomas the Tank Engine and *Friends*. Cartoon (r) (2670161) **3.55 Bugs Bunny** (3936277) **4.15 Talespin** Cartoon adventures (r) (s) (9177971) **4.40 Just Us**. Episode five of a seven-part drama series (6633722)
5.10 Home and Away (r) *(Teletext)* (6448364)
5.40 ITN Early Evening News with John Suchet. (Teletext) Weather (672797)
6.00 London Tonight *Alastair Stewart and Fiona Foster* are joined by the actress Jamie Lee Curtis. (Teletext) (45123)
7.00 Celebrity Squares. Bob Monkhouse's guests on the quiz show include Judi Spiers, Ruth Madoc, Steve Ovett and Pat Coombs (s) (4567)
7.30 Coronation Street. (Teletext) (567)
8.00 The Bill: In Broad Daylight. A young teacher claims that two men tried to abduct her. DC Carver (Mark Wingett) and WDC Morgan (Mary Jo Randle) investigate *(Teletext)* (6667)
8.30 Surgical Spirit: Trial by Fury. Jolly medical comedy starring Nichola McAuliffe as a sharp-tongued surgeon. Sheila's son Daniel (Andrew Groves) is the bearer of good and bad news. (Teletext) (2722)

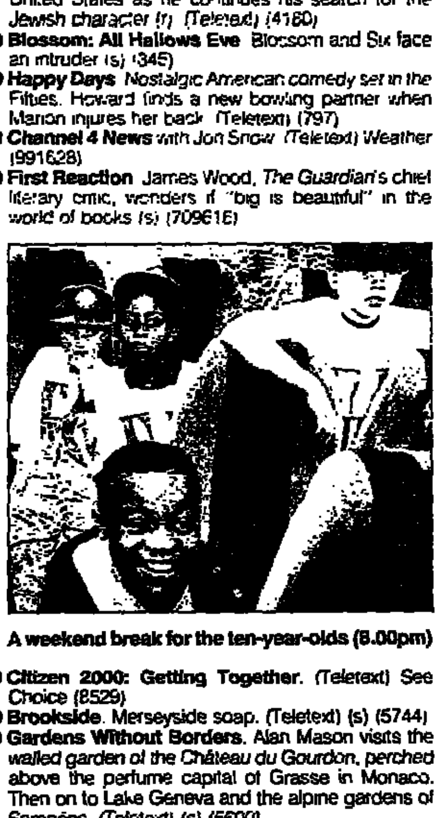


Reborn: Ian Bannen as Dr Cameron (9.00pm)

9.00 Doctor Finlay: Winning the Peace. (Teletext). See Choice (2432)
10.00 News at Ten *with Trevor McDonald. (Teletext)* Weather (55529) **10.30 London Tonight** (513155)
10.40 Love and War: Monday, Monday. Wally (Susan Dey) and Jack (Jay Thomas) decide to spend one *day a week apart* (187093)
11.05 The London Programme. A look at the planned changes to the 1968 Caravan Sites Act, to *encourage gypsies to move to more permanent* sites (975971)
11.35 Married ... with Children (835529)
12.05am The ITV Chart Show. Music videos, featuring *the dance chart* (s) (5261372)
1.05 Whale On. Late-night entertainment and a discussion on youth homelessness (9947001)
2.10 American Gladiators. Physical combat (2684407)
3.15 *Cinema, Cinema, Cinema*. Richard Blade presents film news from Hollywood (5021285)
3.50 Austin City Limits. Country music (2977117)
4.50 Riviera. French soap (3432730)
5.30 *ITN Morning News* with Phil Roman (88643). Ends at **6.00**

CHANNEL 4

6.00 Sesame Street (r) (6189567)
6.45 Dennis. Cartoon adventures (9190513)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (86548)
9.00 You Bet Your Life. Comedy quiz hosted by Bill Cosby (s) (65906)
9.30 Schools (266567)
12.00 The Parliament Programme (72242)
12.30 Sesame Street. Early-learning series (28600)
1.30 Chicken Minute. *Puppet fun (r) (s)* (95635)
2.00 Film: The Old Curiosity Shop (1934, b/w). Sentimental adaptation of Charles Dickens's story about a gambler and his grand-daughter who are *evicted by their miserly landlord Mr Quilp. Starring* Hay Petrie, Ben Webster and Elaine Benson. Directed by Thomas Bentley (277109)
3.45 Somerset. Vintage cartoon (2188600)
3.55 *Cat Out of the Bag* *A Survival film about Atti Port*, a farmer in south-west Africa. Refusing to kill cheetahs, leopards and lions, he traps them and releases them in a game park (1516277)
4.30 *Countdown* Words and numbers game with Richard Whiteley. (Teletext) (s) (180)
5.00 Roots Schmoots. Howard Jacobson visits the United States as he continues his search for the *Jewish character (r) (Teletext)* (4180)
6.00 Blossom: All Hallows Eve. Blossom and Six face an intruder (s) (345)
6.30 Happy Days *Nostalgic American comedy set in the* Fifties. Howard finds a new bowling partner when Marion injures her back (Teletext) (797)
7.00 Channel 4 News *with Jon Snow (Teletext)* Weather (991628)
7.50 First Reaction. James Wood, *The Guardian*'s chief literary critic, wonders if "big is beautiful" in the world of books (s) (709616)



A weekend break for the ten-year-olds (8.00pm)

8.00 Citizen 2000: Getting Together. (Teletext) See Choice (8529)
8.30 Brookside. Merseyside soap. (Teletext) (s) (5744)
9.00 Gardens Without Borders. Alan Mason visits the *walled garden of the Château du Gourdon, perched* above the perfume capital of Grasse in Monaco. Then on to Lake Geneva and the alpine gardens of Samoëns. (Teletext) (s) (5600)
9.30 Cheers: Sunday Dinner. American comedy set in a Boston bar. Starring Ted Danson and Kirstie Alley. (Teletext) (s) (95600)
10.00 Roseanne. Roseanne and sister Jackie try to secure a loan for their business. Starring Roseanne Arnold, Laurie Metcalf and John Goodman (73971)
10.30 Whose Line Is It Anyway? Clive Anderson hosts *the improvisation show*. With Paul Merton, Tony Slattery, Steve Steen and Jim Sweeney (s) (125364)
11.05 The Word. Tonight's show features the actress Halle Berry from *Jungle Fever*, music from East 17, *and a report on the actor Andy Garcia* (s) (650155)
12.05am Film: The Naked Jungle (1954). Tense romantic adventure about a plantation owner in South America and his mail-order bride battling *against an invading army of soldier ants*. Starring Charlton Heston and Eleanor Parker. Directed by Byron Haskin (691204)
1.50 It's Showtime at the Apollo. With Terence Trent D'Arby, Melba Moore, Madame X and Michael Bolton (r) (s) (2555943). Ends at **2.45**

VARIATIONS

ANGLIA
As London except: 3.20-3.50 The Young Doctors (9979432) **5.10-5.40** The Munsters Today (6448364) **6.00** Home and Away (541074) **6.25-7.00** Anglia News (407277) **10.45** Anglia Live (841161) **11.45** Married...with Children (307105) **12.10-1.05** Night Heat (5270020) **2.05** Raw Power (5038730) **3.05** Entertainment UK (6931204) **4.00** Sportsworld (33391) **4.30** Riviera (19662) **5.00-5.30** Jobfinder (80662)

CENTRAL
As London except: **1.15** A Country Practice (514258) **1.45** Home and Away (513529) **2.15-3.10** Goliath Awaits (7780451) **3.20-3.50** GP (9979432) **5.10-5.40** Movies, Movies, Movies (6448364) **6.00** Home and Away (541074) **6.25-7.00** Central News (407277) **10.40** Central Weekend (7945155) **12.10** Film: *Thou Shalt Not Kill* (881827) **2.00** Whale On (29169) **3.00** The Beat (69001) **4.00** Sprockets (33391) **4.30** Jobfinder (1857321) **5.20-5.30** Asian Eye (2714469)

GRANADA
As London except: **1.15** A Country Practice (514258) **1.45** Home and Away (513529) **2.15-3.10** Highway to Heaven (7780451) **3.20-3.50** The Young Doctors (9979432) **5.10-5.40** *Movies, Movies, Movies* (6448364) **6.00** Home and Away (703) **6.30-7.00** Granada Tonight (155) **10.40** Up Front (877600) **11.40-1.05** McCloud (845277) **2.05** Raw Power (5038730) **3.05** *Entertainment UK* (6931204) **4.00** Sportsworld (33391) **4.30** Riviera (19662) **5.00-5.30** Jobfinder (80662)

HTV WEST
As London except: **1.45** Wish You Were Here...? (513529) **2.15-3.10** A Country Practice (7780451) **3.20-3.50** The Young Doctors (9979432) **6.00** HTV News (703) **6.30-7.00** HTV Sportsweek (155) **10.40** Starstruck (177816) **11.10** Love at First Sight: Resurgence (974242) **11.40** Night Heat (825726) **12.40-1.05** Get Wet (2020399) **2.05** Raw Power (5038730) **3.05** Entertainment UK (6931204) **4.00** *Sportsworld* (33391) **4.30** Riviera (19662) **5.00-5.30** Jobfinder (80662)

HTV WALES
As HTV West except: **6.00** Wales at Six **6.30-7.00** Get Going **10.40** 3D **11.10-11.40** The Dragon and the Thistle

MERIDIAN
As London except: **2.15** Grass Roots (538838) **2.45-3.10** Wish You Were Here..? (8311109) **3.20-3.50** The Young Doctors (9979432) **6.00-7.00** *Meridian Tonight* (45123) **10.40** Film: House of the Long Shadows (Vincent Price, Peter Cushing, Christopher Lee) (42140548) **12.30-1.05** Married...with Children (8693391) **2.05** Cinema, Cinema, Cinema (2319285) **2.35** Raw Power (8979285) **3.35** Cue the Music (2965372) **4.30** Country Ways (19662) **5.00-5.30** Freescreen (80662)

TYNE TEES
As London except: **1.45-3.10** Film: Ghost Ship (2043838) **3.20-3.50** The Young Doctors (9979432) **6.00** Tyne Tees Today (703) **6.30-7.00** Living Face to Face With God (155) **10.40** Head to Head (877600) **11.40-1.05** Film: Man of the Dragon (637529) **2.05** The Big E (5057885) **3.00** Film: My Teenage Daughter (911962) **4.45** Challenge of the Seas (79230168) **5.10-5.30** Get Stuffed (6211827)

ULSTER
As London except: **6.00-7.00** UTV Live at Six (45123) **10.40** Kelly (7945155) **12.10-1.05** Prisoner: *Cell Block H* (5270020) **2.05** Raw Power (5038730) **3.05** Entertainment UK (6931204) **4.00** Sportsworld (33391) **4.30** Riviera (19662) **5.00-5.30** Jobfinder (80662)

WESTCOUNTRY
As London except: **1.45** Blockbusters (513529) **2.15** Wish You Were Here..? (538838) **2.45-3.10** Gardener's Diary (8311109) **3.20-3.50** A Country Practice (9979432) **6.00-7.00** Westcountry Live (45123) **10.40** Westwise (177816) **11.15-1.05** Film: Part-time Wife (915345) **2.05** Raw Power (5038730) **3.05** Entertainment UK (6931204) **4.00** Sportsworld (33391) **4.30** Riviera (19662) **5.00-5.30** Jobfinder (80662)

YORKSHIRE
As London except: **1.45-3.10** Film: Ghost Ship (2043838) **3.20-3.50** The Young Doctors (9979432) **5.55** Calendar (160109) **6.30-7.00** Seeing Stars (155) **10.40** Harry Enfield's Guide to Opera (177816) **11.10** Married...with Children (974242) **11.40-1.05** Film: Man of the Dragon (637529) **2.05** The Big E (5057885) **3.00** Film: My Teenage Daughter (625643) **4.45** Challenge of the Seas (16779894) **5.10-5.30** Get Stuffed

S4C
Starts: **7.00** The Big Breakfast (86548) **9.00** You Bet Your Life (65906) **9.30** Ysgolion (266567) **12.00** The Parliament Programme (72242) **12.30** *Slot Meithrin* (98364) **1.00** Lili Oli (89635) **1.30** Close to Home (95635) **2.00** Film: Norman Rockwell's Breaking Home Ties (277109) **3.45** The Quitter (2188600) **3.55** Birdscape (4327884) **4.25** Slot 23 (3317971) **5.00** Countdown (2345) **5.30** Brookside (432) **6.00** News (901432) **6.10** Heno (423600) **7.00** *Pobol Y Cwm* (2109) **7.30** Y Maes Chwarae (109) **8.00** Cefn Gwlad (8529) **8.30** News (697587) **8.55** Sterad Am Yfory (619426) **9.50** San Steffan (112987) **10.00** Roseanne (73971) **10.30** *Whose Line Is It Anyway?* (125364) **11.05** The Word (650155) **12.05** Film: The Naked Jungle (691204) **1.50** Close

SATELLITE

SKY ONE
6.00am The DJ Kat Show (96598432) **8.40** Lamb Chops Play-A-Long (6053838) **9.10** Cartoons (2390155) **9.30** The Pyramid Game (45600) **10.00** Strike it Rich (84616) **10.30** The Bold and the Beautiful (14242) **11.00** Hart to Hart (34109) **12.00** Falcon Crest (31451) **1.00pm** E Street (32797) **1.30** Another World (4281635) **2.15** Santa Barbara (336682) **2.45** Maude (786123) **3.15** Diff'rent Strokes (936646) **3.45** The DJ Kat Show (5605161) **6.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (7432) **6.00** Games World (1364) **6.30** E Street (2616) **7.00** Rescue (8161) **7.30** Family Ties (8600) **8.00** 'V' (67890) **9.00** WWF Superstars Of Wrestling (81426) **10.00** *Code 3* (14221) **10.30** Star Trek: The Next Generation (26451) **11.30** Studs (82600) **12.00** *Pages from Skytext*

SKY NEWS
News on the hour.
6.00am Sunrise (16677) **8.30** News and Business (839722) **9.30** Nightline (10722) **10.30** 48 Hours (96600) **11.30** Business Report (59380) **12.30pm** News and Business (70616) **1.30** *Good Morning America* (71345) **2.30** Parliament (97426) **3.30** The Lords (80278) **4.30** News and Business (5513) **5.00** Live at Five (13884) **6.30** News and Business (78345) **7.30** 48 Hours (6242) **9.00** World News Hour (421432) **10.30** Nightline (24093) **11.30** ABC News (94364) **12.30** 48 Hours (55049) **1.30** ABC News (24952) **2.30** Getaway (23372) **3.30** ABC News (35117) **4.30** Financial Times Reports (59952) **5.30-6.00** ABC News (33117)

SKY MOVIES PLUS
6.00am Showcase (2894838)
10.00 Brenda Starr (1990): *Comic book adventure with Brooke Shields* (23432)
12.00 Papa's Delicate Condition (1963): *Alcohol leads leads to mishaps* (99548)
2.00pm Tom Brown's Schooldays (1940): Classic public school story (71093)
4.00 Zelig (1983). Woody Allen's spoof documentary (2364)
6.00 Brenda Starr *(as 10am)* (88529)
8.00 Highlander II — The Quickening (1991) Time-traveling sequel with Christopher Lambert (78875839)
9.40 US Top Ten (787180)
10.05 Goodfellas (1990): Martin Scorsese's gangster drama (69838074)
12.30am The Perfect Weapon *(1991)*: Martial arts adventure (28555)
2.00 *A Kiss Before Dying* (1991): A woman suspects her partner of murder (78049)
4.00 Grand Slam (1989). Rival bounty *hunters team up* (186730). *Ends at* **5.35**

SKY MOVIES GOLD
6.00pm A Farewell to Arms (1957): *Wartime love story* (612722)
8.30 Tell Them Willie Boy Is Here (1969): *An Indian is pursued by a sheriff* (35872258)
10.15 Polyester (1981): Domestic comedy from John Waters (138432). Ends at **11.45**

THE MOVIE CHANNEL
6.00am The Big Broadcast of 1937 (1936): *Variety revue with Jack Benny* (52489155)
7.45 Dot Goes To Hollywood: Australian animation (4763180)
9.05 1001 Arabian Nights: Animation for children (5376161)
10.25 Which Way Home (1991): A nurse smuggles orphans out of Cambodia (99358919)
12.55pm Vital Signs (1990): Hospital drama with Jimmy Smits (34422364)
2.40 Who's Been Sleeping in My Bed? (1963): Bedroom farce with Dean Martin (10421857)
4.30 Dot Goes To Hollywood (as 7.45am) (91567)
6.00 Da (1989): A man mourns his father (66971)
8.00 Ghost (1990). Supernatural love story with Patrick Swayze (56956971)
10.10 Deadly Game (1991): *Thriller about a disfigured millionaire* (837093)
11.50 Revealing Evidence (1990): A detective becomes involved with a female prosecutor (762155)
1.25am Columbo: No Time to Die (1991) Another case for the scruffy private eye (301730)
3.05 Unman, Wittering and Zigo (1971). Thriller about a sinister school (534827)
4.50 Cobra Woman (1944). Exotic kitsch set on a mythical island (4095407). Ends at **6.00**

SKY SPORTS
6.30am Morning Stretch (48426) **7.00** NHRA Drag Racing Today (55616) **7.30** Netbusters (67451) **8.00** Trucks 'N' Tractor Power (72819) **8.30** Snowboarding World Tour (64890) **9.00** *Morning Stretch* (82242) **9.30** The Boot Room (45432) **10.30** European League Round-Up (34838) **11.30** Morning Stretch (82635) **12.00** ATP Tennis (873426) **2.30pm** Netbusters (3797) **3.00** Asian *Snooker* (575987) **6.00** Sky Soccer Weekend (98779) **7.00** The Big League — Live (389426) **8.30** Asian Snooker (51068) **11.30-2.00am** ATP Tennis — Live (457722)

EUROSPORT
7.30am Nordic Skiing (70513) **8.30** Step *Aerobics* (66258) **9.00** Nordic Skiing (38451) **11.00** Trans World Sport (78567) **12.00** Alpine Skiing World Cup (80703) **1.00pm** Football, Eurogoals (52180) **2.30** Equestrian (39426) **3.30** *Basketball Eurochamps* (29971) **5.00** Nordic Skiing (5908890) **5.45** Alpine Skiing World Cup (354971) **6.30** Eurosport News (6074) **7.00** International Motorsport (25838) **8.00** American Ice Hockey (82118) **9.00** *American Basketball* (96838) **9.30** International Boxing (18819) **11.00** Alpine Skiing World Cup (85155) **11.30-12.30am** Ford Ski Report (23890)

UK GOLD
6.00am Rainbow (52092967) **6.15** Button Moon (52917242) **6.30** Dungeons and Dragons (8801548) **7.00** Adventures of the Galaxy Rangers (2221345) **7.30** *Neighbours* (2233180) **8.00** Sons and Daughters (1840890) **8.30** *EastEnders* (1849161) **9.00** The Bill (1767513) **9.30** The Brothers (6842345) **10.30** Tenko (3180513) **11.30** Don't Wait Up (1250677) **12.00** Sons and Daughters (1850277) **12.30pm** Neighbours (6052703) **1.00** *EastEnders* (2220618) **1.30** The Bill (6051074) **2.00** Never the Twain (2771703) **2.30** The Fall and Rise of Reginald Perrin (5474277) **3.00** Dallas (7650613) **4.00** Dynasty (4600399) **5.00** *Candid Camera* (2699155) **5.30** Give us a Clue (5478093) **6.00** Neighbours (5475906) **6.30** The Brothers (1679155) **7.30** Never the Twain (5382242) **8.00** EastEnders (2791567) **8.30** *The Fall and Rise of Reginald Perrin* (2770074) **9.00** Tenko (2549635) **10.00** The Bill (1851906) **10.30** Alas Smith and Jones (1764426) **11.00** Dick Emery (3250857) **11.30** Film. Killer Party (1986) (4097093) **1.05-2.00am** *Video Bites* (5997117)

THE CHILDREN'S CHANNEL
6.00am Stories Without Words (80967) **6.30** *Non-Stop Cartoon Capers* (9555242) **7.15** Kissy Fur (899906) **8.45** Jack in the Box (561426) **10.45** Stories Without Words (599074) **11.15** Non-Stop Cartoon Capers (9705093) **12.00** Clowning Around (26600) **12.30pm** Mask (40722) **1.00** Jack in the Box (17567) **3.00** Kissy Fur (19703) **4.00** Spiff *And Hercules* (8258) **4.30** *The Legend of* White Fang (4242) **5.00** TVFM (6857) **5.30** Saved by the Bell (1722) **6.00-7.00** Fame (52513)

RADIO 1

FM Stereo and **MW**. **4.00am** Bruno Brookes (FM only) **6.00** Simon Mayo **9.00** Simon Bates **12.30pm** *Newsbeat* **12.45** Jakki Brambles **3.00** Steve Wright in the Afternoon **6.00** Lynn Parsons Mega Hits **6.30** News 93 **7.00** Pete Tong's Essential Selection **9.00** Friday Rock Show **11.00** John Peel **2.00am** Lynn Parsons **4.00** Neale James

RADIO 2

FM Stereo. **5.00am** Sarah Kennedy **6.15** Pause for Thought **7.00** Wake Up to Wogan **9.15** Pause for Thought **9.30** Ken Bruce **11.30** Jimmy Young **2.00pm** Gloria Hunniford **3.30** Ed Stewart **5.05** John Dunn **7.00** Jameson at the Opera **7.30** Friday Night Is Music Night **8.45** Harumi Hanafusa **9.00** Listen to the Band: See Choice **10.00** Radio 2 Arts Programme **12.05am** Jazz Parade **12.35** Charles Nove **4.00** Bill Rennells

RADIO 5

News and sport on the hour until **7.00pm**. **6.00am** World Service. World News **6.09** News About Britain **6.15** The World Today **6.30** Danny Baker's Morning Edition **8.30** Johnnie Walker **11.30** BFBS Worldwide **12.30pm** They Think It's All Over **1.05** For Schools: Topic Resources 9-11; 1.20 Playtime, 1.35 The Music Box; 1.50 Something to Think About; 2.05 Music Workshop; Music Course 3 **2.30** A Game of Two Halves **4.30** *Five Aside* **6.30** *Wicked Words* **7.15** The Fib and Other Stories **7.30** Popcall **8.30** Euromix **9.30** Inside Sasha **10.10** Rave **12.00-12.10am** News, Sport

WORLD SERVICE

All times in **GMT**. **4.30am** World Business Report **4.40** Travel and Weather News **4.45** Programmes in German **5.30** Europe Today **5.59** Weather **6.00** World and British News **6.14** Travel News **6.15** The World Today **6.30** *Programmes in French* **6.59** Weather **7.00** Newsdesk **7.30** Paradise For Some — Tourism in South Asia **8.00** World News **8.10** Words of Faith **8.15** Music Review **9.00** World News **9.05** World Business Report **9.15** *Global Concerns* **9.30** *Seven Seas* **9.45** *Sports Roundup* **10.00** News Summary **10.01** Focus on Faith **10.30** Music for the Millions **11.00** Newsdesk **11.29** Travel News **11.30** BBC English **11.45** Mittagsmagazin **11.59** Business Update **12.00** World News **12.10pm** *Words of Faith* **12.15** The Roof of the World **12.45** Sports Roundup **1.00** Newshour **2.00** World News **2.05** Outlook live **2.30** Off the Shelf: Roag Darban **2.45** Global Concerns **3.00** World News **3.15** *Music Review* **4.00** World News **4.10** News About Britain **4.15** BBC English **4.29** News Headlines in French **4.30** Programmes in German **5.00** World News and Business Report **5.14** Travel News **5.15** BBC English **5.30** Programmes in French **6.00** Newsdesk **6.30** *Programmes in German* **8.00** World News **8.10** *The World Today* **8.25** Words of Faith **8.30** Europe Tonight **9.00** Newshour **10.00** World News **10.10** News About Britain **10.15** People and Politics **10.45** Sports Roundup **11.00** World News **11.05** World Business Report **11.15** Worldbrief **11.30** Multitrack 3 **12.00** Newsdesk **12.30am** From The Weeklies **12.45** Recording of the Week **1.00** World News **1.05** Outlook **1.30** Short Story: Fisherman's Luck **1.45** Jazz Now and Then **2.00** Newsdesk **2.30** People and Politics **3.00** World News **3.10** News About Britain **3.15** Sports Roundup **3.30** The Vintage Chart Show **4.00** World News **4.15** Good Books

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Nick Bailey **9.00** Henry Kelly **1.00pm** Celebrity Choice **2.00pm** Lunchtime Concerto: Britten and Walton **3.00** Petroc Trelawny **6.00** Classic Reports with Margaret Howard **7.00** Classic Verdict **8.00** Classic FM Concert: Wagner and Brahms **10.00** Adrian Love **1.00-6.00am** Robert Booth

RADIO 3

6.35am Open University: Developing World, Primary Health Care
6.55 Weather
7.00 On Air with Chris de Souza. Including Schubert (Overture in E minor, D 648: Liverpool PO *under Leppard*); Haydn (Symphony No 35 in C, Echo: L'Estro Armonico under Derek *Solomons*); Smetana (Symphonic poem, Richard III: Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra under Rafael Kubelik); Berg (Sonata, Op 1: *Daniel Barenboim*)
9.00 Composer of the Week: Marc-Antoine Charpentier. Ver, *Quatuor Anni Tempestates*; Orphée descendant aux enfers; Sonata à 8; *Epitaphium Carpentarii*
10.00 English Chamber Orchestra: Mendelssohn (Overture, *Son and Stranger*); Rosetti (Horn Concerto in E); Respighi (Pastorale for violin and *string orchestra*); Hummel (Piano Concerto in A minor); Mozart (Horn Concerto No 4 *in E flat*, K495); Schubert (Symphony No 2 in B flat). With Barry Tuckwell (horn, director), *Ingolf Turban (violin)* and Stephen Hough (piano).
12.00 Ravel's Songs *(r)*
1.00pm News
1.05 St David's Lunchtime Recital: Pianist John Bingham *performs Liszt's Sposalizio*; Après une lecture du Dante; Canzonetta del Salvatore *Rosa*; *Sonetto 123 del* Petrarca, Années de pèlerinage; Réminiscences de Norma
2.00 Youth Orchestras of the World: Cambridge County Youth Orchestra *under* Elgar Howarth perform Nicola Lefanu (*Fame*); Elizabeth Maconchy (*Epyllion*)
2.55 The Romantic Flute: Anna Noakes, flute, and John Alley, piano, perform Franz Doppler (Hungarian Pastoral Fantasy); Kuhlau (Fantasia in D, Op 95 *No 1*); Reinecke (*Sonata in E minor*, Undine) (r)
3.40 Requiem: Second of two programmes *of music* by Benedictus a Sancto Josepho. With the London Baroque *under* Charles Medlam and Lorna Anderson and Tessa Bonner, sopranos; Rogers Covey-Crump and Charles Daniels, tenors, *Richard* Savage, bass (r)
4.30 Songs of the Grand Duchy: *Marriage and calendar songs* from the period between the 14th and 16th centuries when the Grand Duchy of Lithuania was one of the largest and most powerful *empires in* Europe
5.00 In Tune with Richard Baker
7.30 Towards the Millennium: Mary King, mezzo, and Andrew *Ball*, piano, *perform* music by Bartók, Ives, Cowell, Eisler, Protopopov, Mosolov, *Satie and Berners*
9.30 Telling Stories: Have You Had a Nice Day? by Francis *King (r)*
9.50 Elgar: BBC Welsh SO under Tadaaki Otaka performs Symphony No 1 in A flat, Op 55 (r)
10.45 Strange Meeting: Russell Davies considers the achievements of the war poet Wilfred Owen, born 100 years ago and at one time a fervent lingoist
11.30 Midnight Oil: Studio session *from jazzman* Django Bates featuring George Crumb's settings of Lorca, Songs, Drones and Refrains of Death
12.30-12.35am News
1.00-2.25 *Night School* (except in Scotland: as R5 at 1.05pm)

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast **6.00** News Briefing, Incl **6.03** Weather **6.10** Farming Today **6.25** Prayer for the Day **6.30** Today, incl **6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30** News **6.55, 7.55** Weather *7.45 Thought for the* Day **8.40** Yesterday in Parliament **8.58** Weather
9.00 News
9.05 Desert Island Discs: Sue Lawley's castaway *is the* television writer and producer David Croft (r)
9.45 Feedback *with* Chris Dunkley of the *Financial Times*
10.00-10.30 News; *Murder Most Foul* (FM only): The strangled body of a hitchhiker is discovered (3/6)
10.00 Daily Service (LW only)
10.15 The Bible (LW only): *A Question of Authority*
10.30 Woman's Hour: From Belfast. Featuring a report on Ireland's best-selling record album, *A Woman's Heart*; an examination of views on *divorce in the Irish Republic*; and an item celebrating the older woman in society. Serial: Rebecca (10/15). Incl **11.00 News**
11.30 The Natural History Programme presented by Jessica Holm
12.00 News; You and Yours with *Tasneem Siddiqi*
12.25pm The Food Programme
12.55 Weather
1.00 The World at One with Nick Clarke
1.40 The Archers *(r)* ***1.55*** *Shipping* Forecast
2.00 News; Classical Serial: *Memoirs of a Midget*, by Walter de la Mare (r)
3.00 News; *Special Assignment*
3.30 Bookshelf: Nigel Forde asks whether with the advent of electronic books *the printed* word is going out of fashion. He also talks to Louis Sarno, who has spent years living with the Ba-Benjelle pygmies
4.00 News
4.05 Kaleidoscope: The Living Fire is the first festival of Kurdish *arts in this country. Tim Marlow* investigates. Plus a report on the latest Derek Jarman film, *Wittgenstein*
4.45 Telling Stories: Abroad, by Peter Regent. *Read by Nigel* Anthony (r)
5.00 PM with Wendy Austin and Hugh *Sykes* **5.50** *Shipping* Forecast **5.55** Weather
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 Going Places *presented by* Janet Trewin
7.00 News 7.05 The Archers
7.20 Pick of the Week *with* Liz Lochhead
8.05 Any Questions? Joining *Jonathan Dimbleby to tackle* issues raised in Maryport, Cumbria are Dr Jack *Cunningham*, MP, *shadow* foreign secretary; Howard Davies, director general of the CBI; Sir Norman Fowler, MP, chairman of the Conservative party; and Charles Kennedy, MP, *president of the Liberal* Democrats
8.50 Law in Action: Last in the series
9.15 Kaleidoscope: An Earwig Flew into My Mouth Once (r). See Choice
9.45 Letter from America by Alistair Cooke **9.59** Weather
10.00 The World *Tonight* *with* Robin Lustig
10.45 A Book at Bedtime: Different Voices Same *Tune* — *Alethia*, by Charles Johnson
11.00 Week Ending
11.25 The Financial Week *with* Heather Payton
11.45 Today in Parliament
12.00-12.43am News, incl **12.27** Weather **12.33** Shipping **12.43** As World Service (LW only)

CHOICE

Kaleidoscope. *Radio 4, 9.15pm.*
Interviewing the Irish novelist Roddy Doyle, Waldemar Januszczak leaves implicit what other interviewers, given to categorising, would have made explicit — that, in all probability, *no Irish writer since* James Joyce has made better use of Dublin folk as building blocks for a book. The bonus for listeners tonight is that we hear the authentic voice of Doyle himself, reading extracts from his Barrytown trilogy, including *The Commitments*, and from his new novel *Paddy Clarke Ha Ha Ha*.

Listen to the Band. *Radio 2, 9.00pm.*
Fifty years ago almost to the day, the swan-song was heard on the old Light Programme of the BBC Wireless *Military* Band. Tonight, Radio 2, the *Light's successor*, recreates that valedictory concert, using the Royal Northern College of Music Wind Band. There will be the odd reminder of how the original band sounded because some archive recordings will also be played. Among the works we hear tonight are the *Three Humoreskes*, composed by the Wireless Military Band's founder, B. Walton O'Connell. **Peter Davalle**

FREQUENCIES: RADIO 1: 1053kHz/285m; 1089kHz/275m; FM-97.6-99.8. **RADIO 2**: FM-88-90.2. **RADIO 3**: FM-90.2-92.4. **RADIO 4**: 198kHz/1515m; FM-92.4-94.6. **RADIO 5**: 693kHz/433m; 909kHz/330m. **LBC**: 1152kHz/261m; FM 97.3. *CAPITAL*: 1548kHz/194m; FM-95.8. **GLR**: 1458kHz/206m; FM 94.9; **WORLD SERVICE**: MW 648kHz/463m. **CLASSIC FM**: FM-100-102.
COMPILED BY GILLIAN MAXEY AND STEPHANIE BILLEN

PLEASE HELP A LITTLE DONKEY IN DISTRESS

This little foal is called Fan. She has been cruelly abused by her owner who allowed his children to ride her almost to death.



When our Welfare Officer found her she was lying on her side in a bog, could hardly breathe and was covered with scabs.

Rather than face prosecution the owner was persuaded to sign Fan over to our care and she is now recovering from her ordeal.

PLEASE HELP US TO HELP THEM

To help The Donkey Sanctuary, please send donations to:
The Donkey Sanctuary,
(Dept Y2), Sidmouth,
Devon EX10 0NU
Tel: (0395) 578222
Reg. Charity No. 264818
Enquiries to Dr E.D. Svendsen, M.B.E., D.V.M.S.

I enclose Cheque/Postal Order for £ ______
Name: Mr/Mrs/Miss ______
Address ______
______ Post Code ______
(Dept Y2)

Shareholders call England to account for heavy losses

Alan Lee, cricket correspondent, demands a public explanation for the mistakes that led to Test match failures in India and Sri Lanka

ENGLISH cricket has never been more prosperous, progressive or professional. Simultaneously, the England team has seldom, if ever, been more of a joke. Some have smirked at England's discomfort in India and, following their five-wicket loss yesterday, Sri Lanka too, for there is a black humour to such hopeless defeats, and the British tend to revel in these things. In general, they have been asking how it could happen, and why. Most of all, they have wanted to know who is responsible.

It is a fair question. As cricket in England becomes ever bigger business, with more salaried officers, it is no longer acceptable to the public who generate those salaries to hear woolly excuses when the shop-window is as dowdy as it has been this winter.

Business is accountable to its shareholders and cricket is no exception. The England team's shareholders are those who pay to watch and thereby make a large contribution to keeping county cricket afloat. The public is confused more than outraged and deserves a few answers.

Last week, we were told that the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) was incensed. Not by its team losing three Test matches to India with spectacular inefficiency, but by its dress and deportment. It made for jokes about designer stubble. It probably suited Ted Dexter.

Dexter, as chairman of the England committee, expected a rougher ride from the county chairmen who comprise the TCCB. He had been prepared to stand down if enough considered his position untenable. But they did not, perhaps because they could not think of a replacement or because, in isolation, a 3-0 defeat by India was not a reason for dismissal.

Fair enough. India, when playing to their strengths and on their own pitches, present the most alien of opposition to English batsmen, especially those whose techniques have been compromised by one-day cricket.

Defeat in itself was not the offence. It was the manner of defeat, the make-up of the party that began the tour and, particularly, the teams that took the field.

Fundamental errors were made in strategy, and it is this which the England committee should examine, and then report upon openly, when it meets for the tour debriefing in a fortnight.

In a letter to *The Times* yesterday, Andrew Wingfield Digby, chaplain to the England team, wrote: "What our cricketers need is a country backing, not knocking, them. Can you imagine how depressing it is to feel everyone back home just wants to criticise?" If his point is that, as a nation, we overreact to sporting defeats, he is right. But this is more than just another defeat.

Losing a Test match to Sri Lanka for the first time yesterday, after establishing a position from which defeat should have been inconceivable, has brought further scorn on the team and its management and left England, theoretically, near the bottom of the Test-playing league.

Yet nobody will go down with the ship. Graham Gooch, the captain, remains too important, it is too early to judge Keith Fletcher as manager and Dexter's role is as vague as the man can be himself. But, as Fletcher conceded yesterday, there must be changes in personnel and attitude.

The standards of the A team in Australia and the age-group sides that toured this winter give little cause for encouragement. Mark Lathwell and Andrew Caddick might appear in the Ashes series this summer and Jack Russell certainly ought to. Maybe even David Gower. Enticing prospects, but not enough to transform the Test side.

Fletcher has highlighted some of the problems, from itineraries to bland English pitches. These will continue to plague England touring teams, for there is no overnight solution. But the sick joke need not become a standing joke. At home, England are a different proposition — as Australia will find this summer.

Call for change, page 42

Semi-finalists reject Elland Road

Sheffield clubs to be granted new Cup venue

BY JOHN GOODBODY

AFTER a day of disputes and complaints, the Football Association yesterday appeared likely to bow to the wishes of the two Sheffield clubs and today move their FA Cup semi-final, on April 4, from Elland Road, Leeds, to Old Trafford in Manchester.

Although Sheffield Wednesday and United wanted to play their tie at Wembley, the FA will not, and cannot, budge on using the national stadium, which is staging the other semi-final, the north London derby between Arsenal and Tottenham Hotspur, on that Sunday.

Safety, police and administrative problems, as well as the agreement with television, which wants to show both semi-finals on the same day, would end any hope of Sheffield using Wembley.

The FA has been surprised at the depth of feeling in Sheffield after the two clubs had won their quarter-final replays this week. Graham Kelly, the chief executive, originally had said that "there is not a case for changing" but is now likely to be persuaded to move the fixture to Manchester.

After Wednesday's victory over Derby County, Trevor Francis, the club's manager, criticised the decision not to have the match played at Wembley. Paul Whitehouse, the United chief executive, sent a fax to the FA saying that the club was "not prepared to accept Elland Road".

He added: "We have suggested that Wembley is the only stadium able to accommodate such a prestigious fixture. We feel there is a distinct advantage to the players involved in the other semi-final.

"More than 56,000 spectators watched the two quarter-final ties played this week and many more will wish to see the semi-final in what is the city's centenary year. No other venue could accommodate such support."

Both Sheffield clubs are prepared to play at Wembley on any date and at any time suitable to the FA. BSkyB will broadcast the Sheffield derby match live with the BBC screening highlights. The BBC will, in turn, broadcast the Arsenal-Tottenham tie live and the highlights will go out on satellite.

A decision to move the semi-final will be a blow to Leeds, who saw the award of the semi-final as marking the arrival of the redeveloped Elland Road as a leading sporting venue.

Bill Southerby, the Leeds managing director, said yesterday: "The Sheffield clubs are entitled to their opinion, but there may be a little jealousy because Elland Road is the up-and-coming venue." The ground has been chosen as one of the venues when England stage the 1996 European championship final. Uefa, the European governing body, will inspect the stadium in May.

However, Leeds have yet to complete a new 17,000 all-seat stand and this will limit the attendance on April 4 to 35,000. Sheffield United regard Elland Road as an unlucky ground while Wednesday believe that the pitch has been damaged by Leeds United playing first team and reserve matches and Hunslet playing rugby league games at the ground.

David Hirst, the Sheffield Wednesday forward, has told Graham Taylor, the England manager, not to consider him for selection for the World Cup qualifying tie against Turkey in Izmir on March 31. Hurst has suffered a series of injuries this season and his unavailability leaves England without their three main forwards as Ian Wright and Alan Shearer are also injured. Taylor names his squad today.

Mick Harford, the Chelsea forward, moved to Sunderland, the first division club, for £250,000 yesterday. Harford joined Chelsea from Luton Town at the start of the season for £300,000. Chelsea have launched a scheme enabling supporters to buy a share of Stamford Bridge and help raise the £5 million needed to buy the freehold of the ground.



Perfect timing: Jodami, left, challenges Rushing Wild at the last fence on his way to victory in the Gold Cup. Photograph: Ian Stewart

Jodami jumps to Gold Cup glory

BY RICHARD EVANS
RACING CORRESPONDENT

JODAMI, bought as an afterthought from an Irish field four years ago, landed jump racing's most prestigious prize yesterday when he won the Cheltenham Gold Cup and spared the bookmakers from heavy punishment. In a pulsating finish, Jodami outfought Rushing Wild, the long-time leader, to provide two Yorkshire families with their most memorable day.

The Fellow, backed to 5-4 favouritism in a race which attracted £12 million of bets nationwide, would have been the biggest loser in the history of Ladbrokes and William Hill had he succeeded. The French challenger, who made two uncharacteristic jumping errors, looked a threat half a mile out but the earlier mistakes dulled his challenge and he could finish only fourth.

Jodami's journey to Cheltenham glory began in 1989, when Peter Beaumont went to Ireland to look at two horses and while there was urged to cast an eye over another recently broken-in four-year-old. Beaumont, who combines sheep farming with training horses, liked what he saw and took the horse back to his farm in the wilds of Yorkshire.

John Yeadon, who farms near Wetherby and has had point-to-pointers and chasers with Beaumont for 30 years, soon became the new owner and coined the name, Jodami, after himself and his sons, David and Michael. Beaumont knew immediately he was the best horse to be in his care. "I first thought he would be a Gold Cup horse three years ago when he won his first race, a bumper at Kelso," he said yesterday.

So it proved. Even the jinx, which has, until now, prevented winners of Ireland's Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup going on to capture Cheltenham's top prize, could not stop Jodami. This most homely of wins saw Beaumont drive the horsebox on the five-hour journey from Yorkshire on Wednesday and he will drive it back. "Not tonight, I think. Tomorrow morning."

The race went according to plan for Beaumont and Jodami's jockey, Mark Dwyer. After settling in midfield, Jodami jumped without error and gradually moved through the field. The only moment of panic came on the bend leading into the straight, where the giant 17-hands tall frame slipped slightly. The hiccup was temporary. Soon he was challenging Rushing Wild at the final fence before striding up the hill, ears pricked, to join the greats.

Yeadon, who had refused several six figure sums for Jodami during the winter, and Beaumont reacted to victory with dignified calm; almost as though they had won a local point-to-point. The trainer admitted to having shouted Jodami home. It hardly seemed possible as he and Yeadon politely accepted congratulations, answered questions and went off to see the Queen Mother.

It was left to Dwyer to analyse the significance of the victory. "He's a very good horse now. He'll win again. He'll be back next year."

Unfancied in the betting, Jodami drifted to 8-1 and his victory epitomised the miserable time endured by punters during the three-day festival. Not one outright favourite won a race. There were, however, six Irish-trained successes, the largest number since 1982, which had seemed unlikely given the firm going.

RESULT

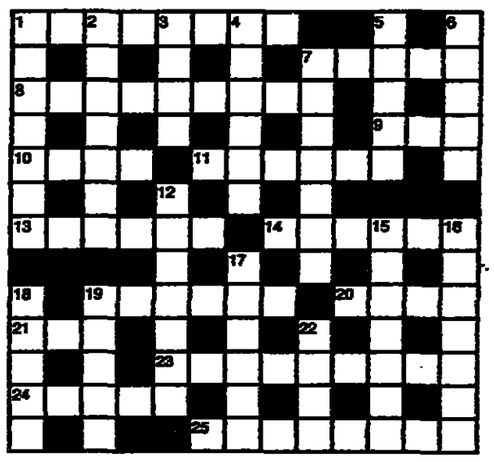
1, Jodami 8-1
2, Rushing Wild 11-1
3, Royal Athlete 66-1

Festival fortune, page 41

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 3050

ACROSS
1 Infant chatter (4,4)
7 Scottish lord (5)
8 Global (9)
9 Little devil (3)
10 Food board (4)
11 Mingled together (6)
13 Fondle (6)
14 Neck front (6)
19 Disc jockey (6)
20 Listen to (4)
21 Knight (3)
23 Visitors information (9)
24 Bumpy (5)
25 Notably (8)

DOWN
1 Enchant (7)
2 Negotiate (7)
3 Seas' movement (4)
4 Hang back (6)
5 Stiff (5)
6 Skilful (5)
7 Long (7)
12 Hypersensitive reaction (7)
15 Oppressive (7)
16 Jailer (7)
17 Yacht basin (6)
18 Sacred song (5)
19 Play (5)
22 Nought (4)



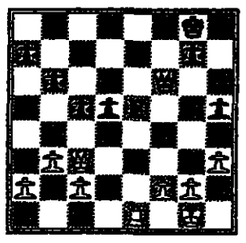
SOLUTIONS TO NO 3049
ACROSS: 7 Pure 8 Eau de vie 9 Falter 10 Planet 11 Bell 12 Poor deal 15 Educated 17 Cure 18 Stench 21 Unlock 22 Roll over 23 Moan
DOWN: 1 Run ahead 2 Lentil 3 Decrepit 4 Pulp 5 Demand 6 Wise 13 Old guard 14 Autocrat 16 Candle 17 Column 19 Tool 20 Have

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WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

This position is from the game Bagirov — Holmov, USSR 1961. At first glance, it looks as if this position is likely to fizzle out to a quick draw. Closer inspection, however, reveals an immediate win for black! Can you see it?



Solution on page 40.

WORD-WATCHING

By PHILIP HOWARD

DIAPIR
a. An organically correct nappy
b. A rock formation
c. An ancient Greek crown-pin

TAMBOOKIE
a. The Tembu people
b. A bamboo drum
c. Sexual intercourse

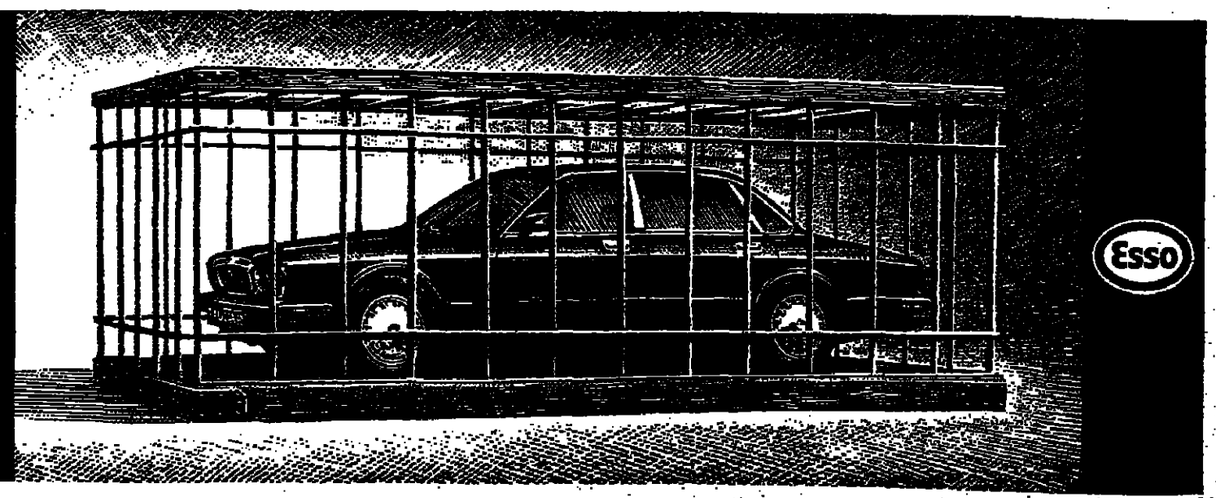
MOSHAV
a. I must have it
b. Moisturised shaver
c. Co-operative allotments

PULVINO
a. A sand storm
b. A cushion cap
c. Lees of wine

Answers on page 40

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